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HALLOWEEN
OUTFITS
FOR KIDS
AND PETS

BOOST

ENERGY



WOMEN WHO NURTURE—AND EMPOWER—SCHOOLKIDS







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EXCLUSIVE WAYS TO SAVE



Scan for bargains on products and recipe ingredients. Use your smartphone to scan product photos on specially marked pages to purchase items you like. You also can scan recipe photos, then organize menus, create a shopping list and find nearby bargains on ingredients. Here's how to do it:

DOWNLOAD THE FREE DIGIMARC APP

(available at Google Play and iTunes). Launch it, then hover your phone 4 to 7 inches above the picture (line it up in the on-screen crosshairs).

IF YOU'VE SCANNED A PRODUCT PHOTO,

your browser will open to a page where you can comparison-shop, buy an item or sign up to receive price-drop alerts.

IF YOU'VE SCANNED A RECIPE PHOTO.

your browser will open to our sister site myrecipes .com. Save the recipe to your MyRecipes account, then make menus, shopping lists and more. Don't have an account? Sign up on the spot.









Do you read ALL You on an Android device, an iPad or iPhone or a Kindle Fire? With our Shop Now service, you can buy featured products, compare prices or sign up for price-drop alerts. Just connect to the Web, then tap the pink bar at the top of the screen.





Visit allyou.com/coupons-deals to snag up to \$500 worth of coupons each month. Sign up for our Daily Free Sample Newsletter at allyou .com/newsletters. We find the best freebies and deliver them to your in-box Monday through Friday.



THIS MONTH'S **COUPONS AND DEALS**

Bausch and Lomb, \$3 off eye drops

(p. 19)

Ghirardelli. \$1 off (p.53)

Gwynnie Bee. 30-day free trial (p. 16)

Hershey's, 55¢ off a four-pack of pudding cups (p.86)

Monroe andmain.com, 20% off

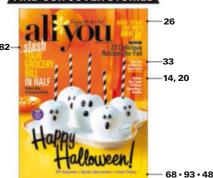
(p. 18)

Letote.com, 25% off first month (p. 16)

Quilted Northern,

\$1 off (p.81)

FIND OUR COVER STORIES



FRIGHTFULLY GOOD!

Using white candy melts and chocolate chips, you can whip up a plate of sweets that every ghoul will love—they're a simple twist on classic candy apples. For the complete recipe, and other Halloween dessert ideas for trick-or-treaters, turn to page 48.

COVER PHOTO: JONNY VALIANT, FOOD STYLING: JOYCE SANGIRARDI, PROP STYLING: ED GALLAGHER



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Scan the image at left to start saving! You'll get a year's worth of issues for one low price.



from the EDITOR

My calendar gets packed in the fall, what with family gatherings, school meetings and my kids' activities. It's a busy time, but it's exciting, too. (I'll use the roundup of energizing foods on page 26 to help me keep up the pace!)

The All You social channels are buzzing as well. If you're not yet following All You on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest or Twitter, you should join us. Some of the best conversations I've heard lately were happening on our Facebook page. We've always known our readers are smart, resourceful and creative, and the proof is in their comments, photos and tweets.

Halloween tends to bring out the Pinterest addict in people, and this issue's spooky sweets (page 48) and DIY costumes (page 68) are too cute not to pin...even if, for some of you, that means pinning them to your kitchen bulletin board. And check out the invigorating stories about women making a difference for kids in their communities (page 62).

Seasons change, but change is usually good.



Clare McHugh, editor clare@allyou.com

THANKS TO ALL THE READERS WHO HELPED CREATE THIS ISSUE



Looking for a good read? Evelyn has a recommendation. PAGE 10

Michelle found a

new way to enjoy

acorn squash.

PAGE 6

Melanie Carroll, 30 SAUGERTIES, N.Y.

Evelyn Cruze, 68 PUTNAM COUNTY, FLA.

> Lisa Greissinger, 53 NEW YORK CITY

Lindsey McClennahan, 25 GUTHRIE, OKLA.

> **Stacey Merzanis, 53 LOS ANGELES**

Michelle Rittler, 35 BETHLEHEM, PA.

Cyndi Tucker, 51 HENDERSON, NEV.



Check out how Lisa keeps her kids occupied after school. PAGE 61



Your skin will glow with Lindsey's tip. **PAGE 13**

IT'S ON! Enter the All You

GAME-DAY Dessert Contest

Whether it's football-shaped cakes. cookies decorated like a gridiron, or something else entirely, we're looking for fun, doable ideas for game-day desserts. The winner, chosen by a panel of All You editors, will take home \$500. Two runners-up will each get \$250. Honorable-mention winners' desserts will be featured on allyou.com.

.com/game-day-contest, along with instructions for assembling and decorating the dessert. We don't need the recipe, but please indicate what you started with (for example, a layer cake or sugar cookies).

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY The ALL You "Game-Day Dessert" at 11:59 p.m. ET on 10/1/15. Open to legal residents of the 50 Unit entry. Void where prohibited by law. For full rules and instruction

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You also can call 866-212-9065 or write to All You at PO Box 62580, Tampa, FL 33662-5808.



'I made it!'

SAUSAGE-STUFFED ACORN SQUASH

'MY REVIEW'

"I loved that this dish required relatively minimal prep work and how it didn't require me to hunt down any esoteric ingredients in the grocery store. Plus, it felt like a comfort dish without the heaviness."

'MY TWEAK'

"The original recipe called for turkey sausage, but I couldn't find turkey sausage in our market that wasn't flavored with other ingredients. I used sweet Italian sausage instead, and I thought the dish turned out deliciously!"

'MY TIP'

"The recipe calls for thawed chopped spinach that has been well drained. If you typically thaw spinach in the microwave, avoid burning your fingers by using a potato ricer to squeeze out the excess water."



"I recently discovered how much I enjoy the subtle flavor of acorn squash, and had been looking for new ways to prepare it other than just roasting it. When I saw this recipe, I knew I had to try it.

Michelle Rittler, 35, Bethlehem, Pa.

From the February issue



Find the recipe at allyou.com/ acorn-squash, or get it by scanning the photo at left. (See page 2.)

QUESTION HOW DO YOU SAVE MONEY ON PET CARE?



"We try to avoid buying boxed treats. We make our own. healthier treats instead. One of Leo's favorites is sliced sweet potatoes placed in a food dehydrator."

> Cyndi Tucker, 51, Henderson, Nev.

"In addition to using coupons and shopping sales, I trade products with friends. If my dogs and cats don't like something, I pass the product to friends for their pets.

-Stacey Merzanis, 53, Los Angeles



DIY

"My kids always prefer to eat their favorite Chinese foods with a pair of chopsticks instead of a fork and knife. To make it easier for them, I took the standard wooden ones that come with takeout meals and used hot glue to attach a clothespin in between the top end of each pair.'

—Camilla Fabbri, cfabbridesigns.com



ORGANIZING

"Got cord clutter? I made my own charging station by concealing a power strip in a shoe box. I covered it with floral wrapping paper, then cut holes in the box for the power cords to pass through."

—Jill Nystul, onegoodthingbyjillee.com









FOLLOW US









WATCH IT!

SISTERS.

SEASONS

ONE AND TWO

Years before Sex and the City debuted on television there was this beloved 1990s series about the Reed

sisters: Alex, Frankie,

fought and dealt with

alcoholism, extramarital

Georgie and Teddy.

They overshared,

affairs and more-

and always had one

another's back. With

the release of this DVD

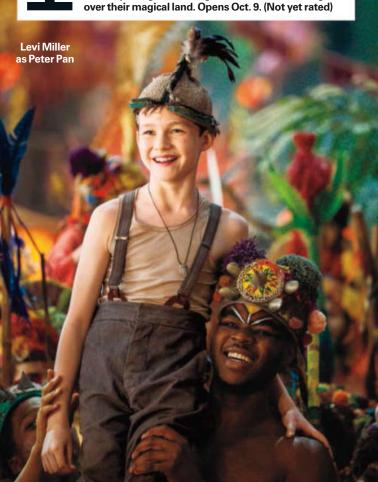
set, you can laugh and

your time 5 Things to Do This Month



SEEIT! PAN

Ever wonder how Peter Pan became the boy who never grew up? In this origins story, 12-year-old Peter (Levi Miller) is kidnapped by pirates from a London orphanage and whisked away in a flying ship to Neverland. There, heroic Peter joins forces with good-guy Hook (Garrett Hedlund) and Tiger Lily (Rooney Mara) to prevent the villainous Blackbeard (a barely recognizable Hugh Jackman) from taking





ENJOYIT! **FORTUNE CARDS**

Scratch one of these cards daily to receive an affirmation. Each box of 60 "fortunes" comes with a little wooden easel so you can display your favorite.

\$17; quartoknows.com.

SEE IT! **MASTERMINDS** In this comedy, based on a 1990s North Carolina heist, David (Zach Galifianakis) is anything but a mastermind. His monotonous job is transporting other people's money-in an armored truck-day in and day out. That is until his work crush (Kristen Wiig) lures him into stealing \$17 million. When David naively trusts a group of not-too-bright, doublecrossing criminals, things go hilariously awry. Also starring Owen Wilson and Jason Sudeikis. Opens Oct. 9. (PG-13)

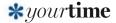


PLAYIT! **DOG BINGO**

A twist on the traditional version, this game swaps numbers for dog breeds from around the world. It contains 64 illustrated dog tokens, 12 bingo cards and colorful counters, as well as information on all the dogs featured, including some of their quirky, lovable traits.

Dog Bingo board game, \$30; amazon.com.





Compelling reads

Books bound to stick with you long after you turn the last page



BIG MAGIC

BY ELIZABETH GILBERT

Whether you long to write the great American novel or you just want to be more present and mindful in your daily life, you can find plenty of inspiration in this self-help tome, written by the author of Eat, Pray, Love. The book encourages the reader to stay focused on whatever she deems to be important in her life. Although some people might be put off by the New Age-y spirituality, the can-do, optimistic tone makes for an uplifting read.



EILEEN

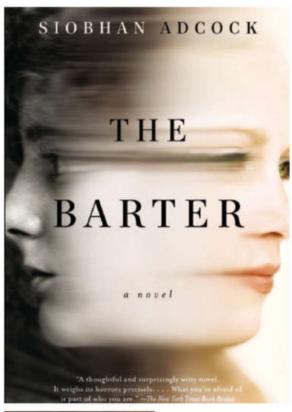
BY OTTESSA MOSHFEGH

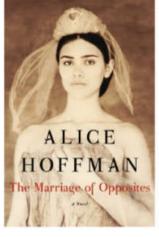
It's the early 1960s, and 24-year-old Eileen splits her time between her job as a secretary in a boys' correctional facility outside Boston and caring for her alcoholic father, all the while dreaming of killing her father and escaping to New York City. When a new counselor starts at the facility, Eileen befriends her and becomes complicit in a crime even more perverse than her fantasies. Told from Eileen's perspective 50 years later, this dark tale is certain to have you enthralled.

THE BARTER

BY SIOBHAN ADCOCK

In her debut novel, Adcock (who serves as the ALL You digital director!) tells the harrowing tale of two women in Texas-one living in present day, one living more than a century ago-as they struggle amid huge change. Bridget has just quit her job as a lawyer to stay home with her daughter, while back in 1902, Rebecca has married a farmer. The paranormal bits of this ghost story aren't too scary, but the tension between the characters and their husbands, along with the suspense of seeing how much each woman must sacrifice, is definitely haunting and likely to keep you reading until the wee hours of the morning.





THE MARRIAGE OF OPPOSITES

BY ALICE HOFFMAN

Rachel Pissarro, mother of Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro, was a Jewish woman whose ancestors fled Europe for the island of St. Thomas. Set in the early 1800s, this historical novel follows dramatic events in her long life, including an arranged first marriage, a scandalous affair to a man she would eventually wed, eight children and three stepchildren. Hoffman's telling of Rachel's story is a meditation on the ties of family, place and society, and on the will to break free of those bonds.

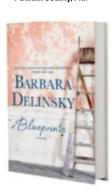


BLUEPRINTS

BY BARBARA DELINSKY

"Caroline MacAfee and her daughter, Jamie, front the popular homerenovation show Gut It!, but when the network tells Caroline that Jamie will become sole host, there's a rift between mother and daughter. After a tragic accident, both women find they need each other, so they work to rebuild their relationship. In the end, the book illustrates that adversities don't define us; what's important is how we deal with them.'

> -Evelyn Cruze, 68, Putnam County, Fla.









REPAIRS 2 YEARS OF DAMAGE IN 2 MINUTES*







OF WOMEN OVER THE AGE OF 25 IN THE US

DYE THEIR HAIR





OF THE HAIRS IN YOUR SCALP ARE GROWING

AVERAGE WOMEN LOSE FROM **50** TO **100** HAIRS

SPLIT ENDS WILL TRAVEL







Infusium₂₃

Infusium23.com

When used as a system with Infusium 23 Repair & Renew Shampoo, Conditioner and Leave-in Treatment
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Sources: Salondartisteny.com, more.com, dailymail.co.uk, webmd.com, dailymakeover.com, lifeandbeautyweekly.com

yourself

QUICK BEAUTY TIPS, STYLE TRENDS AND INSIDER ADVICE TO HELP YOU LOOK AND FEEL GREAT

Wake Up, SLEEPYHEAD!

Don't let a lack of shut-eye show on your face. Look beautifully rested with these instant-fix makeup tricks

GIVE YOUR EYES A LIFT

Upturned lashes help open drowsy eyes. Clamp and squeeze a lash curler three timesat the lash line, in the middle of lashes and again at the ends-and seal the curl with a few coats of mascara.

EDITORS' PICKS Tweezerman Classic lash curler, \$14; tweezerman.com. Rimmel Wonder'Lash Lift Me Up mascara, \$9; at mass retailers.

LIGHTEN UP YOUR LINER

Dark eyeliner under eyes can emphasize shadows. Instead, trace the inner rim of your bottom lash line with beige liner to counteract redness and brighten the whites of your eyes. **EDITORS' PICK Pixi by** Petra Eye Bright liner, \$12; at Target.

SOOTHE SWOLLEN EYES

YOU DON'T NEED
EXPENSIVE CREAMS OR
GADGETS TO DE-PUFF YOUR
PEEPERS, THIS OLD-SCHOOL PEEPERS. THIS OLD-SCHOOL
TRICK IS EFFECTIVE AND
DOESN'T COST A THING:
PLACE THE BOTTOMS OF
TWO CHILLED METAL
SPOONS OVER CLOSED EYES
FOR 60 SECONDS. THE COLD
METAL CONSTRUCTS METAL CONSTRICTS BLOOD VESSELS AND EASES SWELLING.

DITCH DARK CIRCLES

The best concealer for undereye baggage? One with a pink tint, which helps neutralize dark blue circles. (In a pinch, pink lipstick can do the trick.) Blend out from the tear ductwhere shadows tend to be darkest-then layer on foundation.

EDITORS' PICK Hard Candy Sheer Envy Brightening concealer, \$6; at Walmart.

GETTING AT LEAST THIS MUCH SLEEP AT NIGHT MIGHT SLOW SKIN AGING BY UP TO 30 PERCENT.

> Source: Clinical and Experimental Dermatology

REFRESH YOUR COMPLEXION

Buff peach blush over the apples of cheeks to impart a healthy flush and add warmth to sallow skin. CK E.I.f.

Beautifully Bare blush in Peach Perfection, \$4 elfcosmetics.com.



PEACH BLUSH TO BUY THE PRODUCTS See page 2.

YOU GLOW, GIRL! "I gently massage my face with an exfoliating wash, like St. Ives green tea scrub, then rinse with warm water. It brightens my complexion, helping me look significantly less tired, and it allows my makeup to go on smoother." Lindsey McClennahan, 25, Guthrie, Okla.







SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME IN YOUR CLOSET

Become familiar with what you have, how you wear it and what styles look great on you, then let that knowledge inform the purchases you make.



ASSESS YOUR NEEDS

Come up with a list of what you need in order to get the most wear out of what you already have. Also look for gaps in your wardrobe-for instance, are you lacking a go-to dress for special occasions? And if an old favorite is starting to show its wear, start looking for a replacement soon.



THINK LIKE A FASHION STYLIST

Create a Pinterest board and upload photos of items that you own and like but that you want to pair with something new, such as a full skirt that needs just the right fitted top.

Also collect images of purchases you're considering and outfits that inspire you. When you're in the stores, refer to the Pinterest board on your smartphone to help keep you focused. Or, try a wardrobe-organizing app such as Stylebook (\$4; iOS), which allows you to catalog what you own, arrange pieces into outfits and incorporate items that you're considering into your current wardrobe (so you can see how they work with what you already have).





SHOPPING-OBSESSED **BLOGGERS SHARE** THEIR SECRETS



-they usually get new merchandise and it's not

lovelyinla.com WHAT'S YOUR BEST **SHOPPING ADVICE?**

RACHEL RICHARDSON

FASHION CHATTER

I always check off-price stores and flash-sale sites, in addition to sample sales. I also use online tools to set up notifications to let me know when items are marked down.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE STORE FOR BARGAINS?

Nordstrom Rack has been really good to me lately. I've found some great accessories, designer handbags, shoes and dresses. Midweek seems to be best for places like the Rack

picked over.

WHAT TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR PUTTING TOGETHER A **FALL/WINTER WARDROBE?**

My key fall/winter pieces include a couple of great jackets, boots, jeans and great accessories. The key is to have items that all work well together, especially if you are on a tight budget. And I love scarves—they are an inexpensive way to add some color and change up an outfit.



This is my favorite fall bargain outfit. I already had the top and the bag in my closet, and I scored the rest on massive clearance: The shoes, jeans and cardigan were each more than 75 percent off! It makes me feel stylish and comfortable, and I didn't break the bank buying it!



HATE TO SHOP? SUBSCRIPTION

For a monthly fee, you receive a selection of clothes. Wear them, then choose the pieces you want to purchase. When you return the remainder, a new assortment is shipped.

Gwynniebee.com

Specializing in sizes 10 through 32, this site offers monthly plans that start at \$35 for one item.

> 30-DAY **FREE TRIAL** at gbsubscribe .com/allyou 10/31/15

Letote.com

Each shipment contains three pieces of clothing and two accessories. A monthly plan costs \$49.

> 25% OFF first month's membership* at letote.com CODE: ALLYOU15 EXPIRES: 12/31/15 New members only

TheMsCollection.com

Choose the type of clothing you'll receive (casual, say, or office wear). Monthly plans range from \$39 to \$109.



If you see something you love in a store, chances are you can find it on sale online.

MEGAN ZIETZ tfdiaries com

FASHION CHATTER

SHAINNA TUCKER

athickgirlscloset.com

WHAT'S YOUR BEST SHOPPING ADVICE?

I buy summer clothes in the fall and winter, and winter clothes in the spring and summer. Clearance racks at Lord and Taylor, Macy's and similar stores are a gold mine when they're changing seasons.

DO YOU PLAN BEFORE YOU SHOP?

Yes, sort of. My main recommendation is to try not to shop aimlessly. I know it's hard, because you see something supercute and then you forget what you went to the mall for! But if you know what you're looking for, just head straight to the stores that are more likely to have it. It will save you money, which we all love.

WHAT ITEMS DO YOU SPLURGE ON?

Undergarments. I invest in good bras, good underwear, and shapewear. Not only do they make your clothes look better, but splurging on these items will ensure that you don't have to constantly rebuy after only a few wears. I personally like to scrimp on jewelry-I don't feel so bad if I lose a pair of cheap earrings.







I found this skirt at Unique Thrift, my favorite thrift store. The purse is from American Apparel, and the sandals are from Target. The outfit came together when I was playing dress-up one day. With casual, versatile pieces, you can't go wrong.

BLOGGER TIPS

TIPS FOR **THRIFTING**

JEN MENEELY AND PIPPA WILLIAMS

toocheapblondes.com

SHOP OFTEN

Most thrift stores restock every day, so the inventory is constantly changing.

LOOK AT EVERY SINGLE HANGER

Ensure you don't miss hidden gems. If you're short on time, head straight for the racks of dresses, coats and jackets, where you're likely to get the biggest bang for your buck.

TRY EVERYTHING ON

Higher-end items often have been altered, so you might be surprised by the fit.



USE THE RIGHT TOOLS THESE WEBSITES AND APPS HELP YOU SAVE MONEY, ONLINE AND OFF



EBATES.COM

Sign up and receive money back on qualifying purchases-ranging from 3 percent to 25 percent (and that can add up!). Plus, you're notified of sales.



► RETAILMENOT.COM

Looking for a coupon code? Bookmark this site to find current online discounts and promotions, as well as printable coupons.



SHOPADVISOR.COM

This site and app (it powers our scan-shop function, too; see p. 2) feature thousands of items, offer price comparisons and notify you when items you like go on sale.









TRY IT ON AGAIN

Now that you've unloaded the car, try on each piece with items you already own so you can see whether it does, in fact, work with your wardrobe.

PUT IT AWAY

Hang your new item, or fold and place it in a drawer-but don't remove the tags! Make a note in your calendar of the latest return date, with a reminder set a week before; if you haven't had the urge to wear the piece by then, consider taking it back.

SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS

You'd need them to make a return, and if the item gets marked down, you might qualify for a price adjustment. Make it easier with an app such as OneReceipt (free, iOS), which organizes e-mail receipts automatically.





Dry eye happens when this layer breaks down. Soothe XP can help.

Your eyes have an outer protective lipid layer that keeps in moisture. Only Soothe XP contains Restoryl™ mineral oils that help restore this layer, seal in moisture, and protect against further irritation. Ordinary drops can't do that.

BAUSCH+LOMB

See better. Live better.



Available in the eye care aisle.



SAVE \$3 off any
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Soothe's
Lubricant Eye Drops
SootheEyeDrops.com.

MANUFACTURER'S COUPON | EXPIRES 3/31/2016

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<THE LOOK Soft and bouncy

THE TOOL John Frieda Styling Tools by Conair hot air brush, \$40; at Ulta.

If you have a hard time handling a blow-dryer and a round brush at the same time, here's your two-in-one solution: The ceramic barrel dispenses targeted airflow, while the soft bristles smooth and manipulate hair. Start by roughdrying strands with a blow-dryer,

> focusing on your roots, to remove excess moisture and add oomph. Next, divide damp hair into four large sections. Wrap the middle of a 2-inch chunk of

hair from one section around the barrel and slowly brush through, flicking your wrist as you go for effortless-looking loose curls. Repeat until hair is completely dry: finish with a spritz of hairspray.

THE LOOK > Voluminous curls

Meet our new

blowout bestie: This

brush dries

and curls

THE TOOL Infiniti Pro by Conair Secret Curl, \$60 for 12; ulta.com.

If your hair doesn't hold defined curls easily when you use a curling iron, try these modern-day, clampless curlers instead. Start by combing dry hair so it's smooth and free of tangles. Then pick up a section of hair no wider than 1 inch. Wind the ends around a roller, and roll upward. Press the roller closed as near to your scalp as possible to maintain lift and volume. Let the rollers cool (about 10 minutes, depending on the length and texture of your hair) before gently unwinding. You'll get tight spirals initially, but they'll

relax into springy curls with lots of body. Add extra hold with a few shots of hairspray.









THE TOOL Remington T-Studio Protect iron, \$80; at Target.

This iron gives the silky finish of a professional straightening treatment minus the hefty price tag. It works by misting a conditioning micro-vapor onto strands prior to heating hair to reduce frizz, seal split ends and enhance shine. (Don't worry: No greasy residue is left behind.) Run a comb though hair to untangle any knots, then clamp small sections—no wider than the plates—near the roots and glide through in one continuous movement. Hold the iron so the steam flows down toward the ends, and slide slightly outward, instead of straight down, to keep strands from falling flat.

▲THE LOOK Tousled waves

THE TOOL Kiss InstaWave, \$60; at Target.

No need to wrestle with curling wands and risk accidental burns to achieve pretty bends in your hair. This foolproof automatic curler is ideal for beginners. Holding the iron vertically, place a small section of hair on the barrel and press the curl dial. The iron automatically wraps strands around its heated barrel like a ribbon. After 5 to 10 seconds, release and then gently tug at the ends of hair to stretch spirals into cascading waves. Alternate the direction of each curl—toward the face and away—for more natural-looking results. All done? Shake out hair to gently separate strands.

Damage

If you're a regular hot-tool user and your hair is starting to show it, you need to know about these.



DEEP **CONDITIONER**

One with nourishing oils will restore moisture, smooth the cuticle and protect hair from damage. Use once or twice a week in place of your regular conditioner. EDITORS' PICK Hair Food Moisture hair mask, \$12; at Target.



HERMAL PROTECTOR

To keep strands from sizzling and snapping, create a barrier between your hair and the heat. Work a protecting product through damp strands before styling. EDITORS' PICK Schwarzkopf Styliste **Ultime Crystal** Shine and Hold Heat Protection spray, \$7; at Walmart.

LIGHTWEIGHT OIL

Secure hair on the barrel and press the curl dial for no-fuss waves.

Easy!







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FROM TOP: GALLERY STOCK, NO CREDII

yourhealth

BREAKING NEWS, FITNESS KNOW-HOW AND SMART STRATEGIES TO BOOST WELLNESS

YOU ASKED: WHEN SHOULD I START GETTING MAMMOGRAMS?

THE ANSWER: Although there has been debate, many doctors agree that women with an average breast cancer risk should have an annual mammogram and breast exam, starting at age 40. If you're at a high risk (as determined by your doctor), you should get an MRI and a mammogram annually, alternating the two every six months. Women with a family history of breast cancer should begin 10 years prior to the age their youngest first-degree relative was diagnosed.



CAUSES BREAST LUMPS OR CHANGES? -Melanie Carroll, 30, Saugerties, N.Y.

THE ANSWER: There are a lot of reasons why lumps develop. At this moment researchers can point to many risks that are out of our control, including aging and genetics, as well as factors that we can control, like drinking alcohol and not keeping physically active. Still, it is not completely understood how some of those risk factors cause cells to become cancerous.

ED: DO I NEED A GENETIC TEST?

THE ANSWER: Probably not. A blood test lets you know if you have a mutation (of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes) that increases your risk of hereditary breast cancer. The vast majority of breast cancers are not caused by such mutations, but if you have a strong family history, your doctor might advise the test.

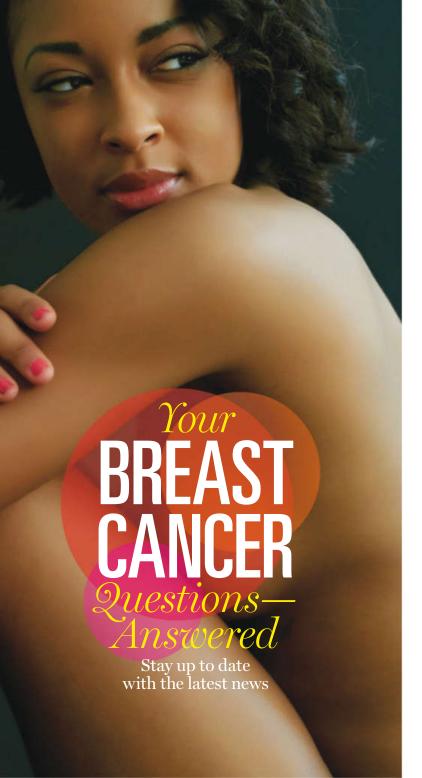
YOU ASKED: WHAT'S ALL THIS TALK ABOUT DENSE BREASTS?

ER: About half of U.S. states now have laws saying that doctors must tell their patients if a mammogram shows they have dense breasts. Not only is dense breast tissue associated with a higher risk of breast cancer, but the density makes it harder for doctors to spot tumors. If you have dense breasts, your doctor might suggest other screenings in addition to your regular mammogram. Doctors also say newer 3-D mammogram technology can better help them see a tumor in dense breasts, but it isn't yet available everywhere and your insurance might not cover it.

Sources: Therese Bevers, MD, medical director of the Cancer Prevention Center at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston; and Rosemary Leeming, MD, director of the Comprehensive Breast Program at Geisinger Health System in Danville, Pa.

BREATHE A LITTLE EASIER

WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY? HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS: WOMEN DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER WHO HAVE A FAMILY HISTORY OF THE DISEASE HAVE NO WORSE A PROGNOSIS ONCE TREATMENT IS COMPLETE THAN ANY OTHER WOMAN WITH BREAST CANCER, ACCORDING TO A NEW STUDY. Source: BJS



Oatmea!

A whole-grain powerhouse, oats are chock-full of energygenerating nutrients including magnesium, protein and vitamin B-1 (thiamin). A bowl of oatmeal is also high-volume (thanks to all its fiber, plus the liquid the grains are cooked in), so it takes a while to leave the stomach. That results in a slow, sustained rise in blood sugarwhich not only boosts your energy but keeps it on an even keel for longer. (By contrast, a quick spike in blood sugar can cause you to crash and burn in the energy department.) For the biggest benefit, opt for old-fashioned or steel-cut oats, not quick-cooking oats or instant oatmeal.

Not only do almonds combine fiber, protein, vitamin E and heart-healthy fats, they also contain a wealth of nutrients that provide long-lasting power and help your body unlock energy from other foods you're eating. Trained cyclists in a 2014 study who ate almonds before an exercise session cycled farther and more efficiently than those who ate a cookie with the same number of calories. For a great snack, pair a handful of almonds or a tablespoon or two of almond butter with an apple or pear.

Almonds

NEED A BOOST? PUT THESE ON YOUR PLATE TO FEEL MORE POWERED-UP ALL DAY, EVERY DAY By Stacey Colino

Sure, pretty much anything you eat will give you *some* energy, as long as it has calories. But just as with your car, you could be filling your tank with high-octane gas or low-grade junk fuel. Get the best performance out of your body by adding these energy-enhancing superfoods to your diet.



Eggs

As it turns out, the incredible, edible egg is an impressive source of quality protein, as well as vitamins A and D, which are important for energy metabolism. In addition, eggs are rich in choline, an essential nutrient that's a precursor for acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter that fuels memory, muscle control and other brain functions. And you get all that for only about 75 calories per egg! Just know that you need to consume the yolk to reap the full energy-enhancing perks. People who don't have high cholesterol or other heart concerns may consume an egg per day without a problem, according to the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans.



It doesn't make a lot of rankings of beloved vegetables, but the humble beet can give you a leg up in the energy department. Beets are a natural source of nitrates. Your body converts those into nitric oxide, which can fight fatigue by helping to open blood vessels, lower blood pressure and bring more oxygen to muscles. That, in turn, can help boost stamina, allowing you to do more work with less effort. Not a fan of cooked beets or beet juice? Try beet chips! Slice the raw root thinly (or shave on a mandoline), sprinkle with olive oil and sea salt, then bake in a 350F° oven until the chips are crisp, 12 to 15 minutes.

* HONORABLE MENTION *

GIVE BEETS

A CHANCE

spinach

It's an excellent source of folate, which helps your body turn food into usable energy. Plus, spinach and other leafy greens (think: kale, Swiss chard, collards and the like) have a high water contentwhich helps you stay hydrated, satiated and energized. (Remember, dehydration = exhaustion.) In fact, research from Sweden found that adding spinach to a meal enhanced feelings of fullness and slowed the after-eating rise in blood sugar, making for a steadier increase in energy Spinach is also a source of iron, critical for transporting energizing oxygen to your cells. Pair it with vitamin C-rich foods, such as citrus and strawberries, to help your body absorb the iron.

18 grams of protein in a 6-ounce TO grants of proteining o outline container, Greek yogurt offers one of the most impressive blends of those nutrients in a portable portion. The carbs provide a short-term boost to get you going, while the high protein content—nearly double that of unlar yourt—offers long lasting once. protein content—nearly double that of regular yogurt—offers long-lasting energy regular yugurı—uners lung-rasılıng energy
(protein takes longer to digest than carbs do). Plus, iprotein takes longer to algest than carps dol. Mus, Greek yogurt is a good source of calcium, potassium and Greek yogurt is a good source of calcium. GIERN YUGUILIS & YOUU SOUICE OI CAICIUITI, POIASSIUTTI ATI vitamin B-12, all of Which indirectly enhance energy by Vitamin 5-12, all of which indirectly enhance energy by helping to regulate fluid balance (becoming dehydrated helping to regulate fluid balance). rielphing to regulate hulu balance (becomining denyorated) and organ function in your body.

With 7 grams of carbohydrates and

Watch Out FOR THESE ENERGY- DRAINING FOODS

The ancient seed from South America is an excellent gluten-free source of complex carbs, fiber, magnesium and phosphorus, as well as a good source of zinc and folate. It's also a complete

source of protein (rare in plant foods), meaning that it contains all the essential amino acids that your body can't make itself.

And it has twice as much protein as brown rice, so it provides long-lasting energy as well as fills you up. Consuming protein and complex carbohydrates can help boost your metabolism—which can rev up your energy, too.

That's how That's how ater a much water a much water a much water apple contains. medium apple contains. The better hydrated are, the more you are, the you energized you feel.

buzz—followed by an inevitable crash.

Candy As any parent of a 4-year-old knows, jelly

beans, gummy bears, candy corn and other supersweet treats can give you a major sugar

Energy drinks
The combination of caffeine and sugar in such beverages

and sugar in such beverages provides a temporary burst of energy. But the rush is short-lived and your energy soon crashes, leaving you feeling exhausted. If you really need

a caffeine fix, a cup of coffee (with milk, if you'd like)

is a healthier choice.

0

Plain bagels
Because they're made with refined white flour, they can renned white nour, they can cause a rapid spike in blood sugar, followed by a fall that leaves you feeling drained. Plus, a big, puffy bagel is equal to four to five slices of bread in terms of calories; add cream cheese and it becomes a calorie bomb.

ples

Eating apples gives you a big nutritional bang for every bite, because they're loaded with soluble and insoluble fiber, potassium, and a variety of health-boosting phytochemicals. They're also

rich in carbohydrates to fuel you, and their high fiber content keeps you full and slows the digestion of those carbs, giving you a steady supply of energy.

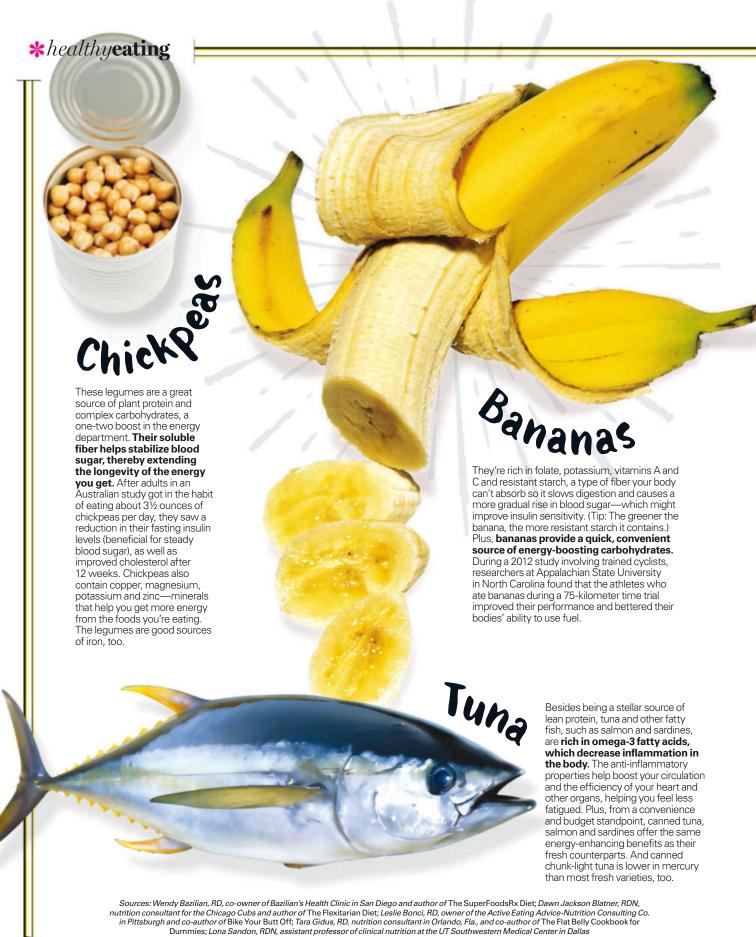
French fries

Potatoes are healthy if prepared correctly (as in, prepared correctly (as in, baked), but the extra fat from deep-frying impairs digestion and makes the transfer of energy between your cells less efficient. Food coma!

White chocolate

Unlike darker forms of chocolate, white chocolate contains no heart-healthy, anti-inflammatory compounds. It's basically compounds. It's pasically nothing but sugar, cocoa butter and milk solids, a combination that can KO your energy. Stick with the dark stuff.







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So bladder leaks can feel like no big deal. *always*





Whether you're at risk or have just been diagnosed, we've got answers to your questions—plus need-to-know information to keep you healthy

Check out these eve-opening numbers: One in 12 Americans have type 2 diabetes, and one in four have prediabetes—a condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal. During the past 30 years, the percentage of American women diagnosed with type 2 diabetes has doubled. What's more, if the current trend continues, as many as one in three American adults will have the disease by 2050. Now take a deep breath and let this sink in: Although diabetes is a serious condition, it's one **you can control.** This comprehensive guide—filled with diet tips, lifestyle advice, the latest treatment options and more—is a great place to start.

What is diabetes?

THE SIMPLE ANSWER

People with diabetes have too much sugar in their bloodstream. When you eat, your body breaks down carbohydrates into glucose. The hormone insulin helps your body absorb glucose and use it for energy. But in people with diabetes, the body either doesn't make enough insulin or doesn't use it properly. As a result, glucose builds up in the blood; left untreated, that can lead to serious health problems. There are several types of diabetes:

TYPE 1, previously called juvenile diabetes, is usually diagnosed during childhood. The immune system attacks cells in

the pancreas, destroying its ability to make insulin.

TYPE 2, the most common form, affects more than 90 percent of people with the disease. Your body doesn't use insulin properly—a condition known as insulin resistance. At first, your pancreas makes extra insulin to compensate, but over time it can't make enough to keep blood glucose at normal levels. Eventually, the insulinproducing cells in the pancreas might burn out because of this overproduction. However, in earlier phases the illness can be managed with diet, exercise and monitoring of blood sugar.



≺With PREDIABETES, your glucose is higher than normal but not high enough to be classified as type 2 diabetes. You might be able to prevent or delay prediabetes from becoming diabetes by making lifestyle changes such as a healthier diet and regular exercise.

GESTATIONAL DIABETES

is high blood sugar that occurs during pregnancy. Nearly 10 percent of pregnant women have the condition, which can lead to high birth weight or preterm birth. It also raises the child's risk of developing obesity or type 2 diabetes later in life. For the mother, it can mean an increased risk of high blood pressure and pre-eclampsia. If you've had gestational diabetes, you're also more likely to get type 2 diabetes as you get older, though you can reduce the risk by maintaining a healthy weight and making wise lifestyle changes.

Am I at risk?

Researchers aren't sure why some people develop prediabetes and type 2 diabetes while others don't. Here's what is clear: Certain factors increase the risk. Answering Yes to any of these questions could mean you're more susceptible to developing the condition.

- ☐ Are you overweight?
- ☐ Are you a couch potato?
- ☐ Do you have a first-degree relative (parent or sibling) with type 2 diabetes?
- ☐ Are you African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic or Native American?
- \square Are you older than 45?
- ☐ Do you (or did you) have gestational diabetes while pregnant?
- ☐ Have you given birth to a baby weighing more than 9 pounds?
- ☐ Do you have polycystic ovary syndrome?
- ☐ Do you have high blood pressure? ☐ Do you have low levels of HDL
- (known as "good") cholesterol or high levels of triglycerides?

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE DIABETES?

It's smart to watch for these five warning signs.

- Weight loss (despite eating more than usual to satisfy hunger)
- Increased thirst and urination
- 6 Fatigue
- OBlurry vision
- Slow-healing sores or frequent infections

FYI: You might not have any symptoms at all; more than a quarter of the 29.1 million Americans with diabetes don't know they have it. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) recommends that all adults be tested at age 45 and then every three years after that if the first test is normal. If you're overweight or have other risk factors (such as a family history, high blood pressure or past gestational diabetes), your doctor may want to screen you earlier. Your health insurance might cover the screening; if you have high blood pressure, your insurer must cover in-network screening for type 2 diabetes at no cost to you. The standard test is the A1C, a blood test that provides information on your average blood glucose level during the previous two to three months.

DID YOU KNOW YOU DON'T NEED TO GO LOW-CARB?

Our bodies need carbohydrates for energy, so severely restricting or eliminating them isn't a good idea. Doing so can lead to cravings that might cause you to overeat. To stay healthy, concentrate on nutrient-rich complex carbs such as whole-grain bread and pasta. They have more fiber, which can help prevent after-meal spikes in blood glucose levels.

THREE **GREAT APPS**

Stay on track by downloading these tools to your smartphone.

Glucose Buddy (free, iOS, Android) helps you keep a log of blood glucose levels, insulin doses, carbohydrate intake, activities and more. It also can give you constant reminders to take your medication.

Diabetic Connect (free, iOS) lets you keep in touch with the largest community of diabetes patients on the Web. It's a great way to share tips and get support.

Glucool Diabetes (\$5, Android) lets you to customize your diabetes management. Type in data, such as blood glucose, insulin doses, exercise and carb intake, and the app creates personalized charts and graphs to help you spot trends.

(Almost) ouch-less alternatives

If you think keeping diabetes under control means jabbing yourself with a painful needle every day, know this: Managing the disease is easier than ever, thanks to the latest treatments. *In addition to oral medications* and lifestyle changes, your options might include:

INSULIN PENS This convenient, easy-to-use way of injecting insulin uses a superfine needle and is less painful than standard needles or syringes. Most insurers cover them.

NSULIN PUMPS Attached to the body, these small devices are programmed to release insulin. Many insurance companies cover them, but because they can cost thousands of dollars, your provider might require that you meet certain qualifications.

NHALABLE INSULIN Housed in a tiny device, similar to the ones used by people with asthma, this fast-acting insulin (Afrezza) is designed to be used at mealtimes.

MONITORING A small sensor, inserted under the skin, measures glucose levels 24/7 and sends the measurements to a little monitor, which you may be able to fit in your pocket or attach to your waistband.

Sources: Gerald Bernstein, MD, director of the Diabetes Management Program at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York and co-author of 16 Myths of a Diabetic Diet; Scott Isaacs, MD, endocrinologist in Atlanta and author of Hormonal Association and director of the Diabetes Translational Research Center at the Indiana University School of Medicine;

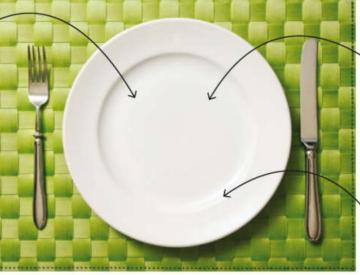
So, what can I eat?

Many people think that having diabetes means living with a long list of forbidden foods. It is true that people with the condition should follow a healthful diet that's low in sodium and saturated fats, high in fiber and full of fruits, vegetables, lean protein and whole grains—but that's true for practically

everyone. The difference for people with diabetes is that they have to ensure they balance what they eat (especially carbohydrates), their activity level and their medication to keep their blood sugar at a safe level. Here's how to build a healthy plate, based on ADA guidelines.



Fill one half of your plate with nonstarchy vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, green beans, spinach or lettuce and other leafy greens.



In one quarter put whole grains (oatmeal, brown rice, whole-grain bread or pasta) or starchy foods (beans, peas, potatoes, sweet potatoes, winter squash).



You can add a serving of dairy (such as 6 ounces of plain yogurt), a serving of fruit (about ½ cup of berries or sliced fruit) or both, depending on your carb total for the day. Include small amounts of healthy fats such as olive oil, nuts, seeds or avocado.

In the other quarter put a protein such as lean meat, poultry, fish, eggs or tofu.

TEST YOUR DIABETES

TRUE OR FALSE? Eating breakfast regularly can make a big difference when it comes to preventing diabetes. ANSWER: True. A Harvard study found that women who skipped the a.m. meal had a 20 percent greater chance of developing the disease compared with those who

always ate breakfast. Two smart choices to start your day: unsweetened wholegrain cereal with ½ cup low-fat milk and berries, or whole-wheat toast with nut butter and apple slices.

TRUE OR FALSE? You can't have diabetes if you're thin.
ANSWER: False. About
10 percent of people with type 2 diabetes are at normal weight: a body mass index (BMI) of 25 or less.

TRUE OR FALSE? Water is one of the best beverages for someone with the disease.

ANSWER: True. The ADA recommends that you choose drinks that provide the least carbohydrates (water and unsweetened coffee or tea).

Limit or avoid juices, which are high in sugar and carbs.

TRUE OR FALSE? Fruit is bad for your blood sugar. ANSWER: False. Whole fruit does contain sugars, but unlike juice, it also has fiber, which prolongs digestion, slowing the release of glucose into the bloodstream. A 2013 study published in Nutrition Journal found that patients who restricted their fruit intake didn't have better blood-sugar levels, or lose any more weight, than those who were encouraged to eat more fruit.

TRUE OR FALSE? You should always choose a low-fat diet to prevent diabetes. **ANSWER: False.** Following a

Mediterranean-style diet rich in olive oil (along with nuts. fish, beans, fruits and vegetables) can reduce the risk for type 2 diabetes by 40 percent, even when people don't lose weight or increase exercise levels. a 2014 studv published in Annals of Internal Medicine found. Researchers say the diet—full of healthful mono-unsaturated fats, fiber and antioxidants—reduces

inflammation in your body

diabetes.

that puts you at risk for type 2

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*greatfood

DELICIOUS RECIPES, COOKING SHORTCUTS AND EASY WAYS TO EAT HEALTHY FOR LESS



APPLE BUNDT CAKE WITH BROWN-SUGAR GLAZE

COST PER SERVING 78ϕ / HANDS-ON 30 min. / TOTAL 1 hr. 40 min. / SERVES 10

CAKE:

- 3 cups allpurpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 34 cup whole milk
- 2 large Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored. coarsely grated, squeezed dry

GI AZE:

- 34 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 3 Tbsp. unsalted
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat a nonstick 12-cup Bundt pan with cooking spray. (Alternatively, brush with melted butter, add 2 Tbsp. flour, rotate to evenly coat, and tap out excess.)
- Make cake: Sift together flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt in a medium bowl. In a large bowl, with an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter and sugar until light, about 5 minutes. Reduce speed to medium and beat in eggs, 1 at a time, mixing well after each addition and scraping down sides of bowl as needed. Beat in vanilla. With mixer on low speed, add flour mixture

in 3 batches, alternating with milk. Fold in grated apples. Transfer to prepared pan.

- 3 Bake until a toothpick inserted into center of cake comes out clean, about 1 hour 10 minutes. Let cool in pan on a wire rack for about 10 minutes, then unmold onto rack set over a clean, rimmed baking sheet.
- 4 Make glaze: Combine brown sugar, butter, vanilla, cream and salt in a heavy saucepan. Stir over medium heat until smooth. Increase heat to high and bring to a boil. Remove from heat and stir until syrupy.

5 While cake is still slightly warm, poke small holes in top with a toothpick or skewer. Pour about 1/2 of glaze over cake, letting it soak in for 1 to 2 minutes, then pour remaining glaze over cake. Scoop up any glaze that has dripped off and spoon over cake again. Allow to cool completely before serving.

PER SERVING 521 Cal., 23g Fat (14g Sat.), 119mg Chol., 1g Fiber, 6g Pro., 75g Carb., 254mg Sod.







KALE SALAD WITH ROASTED SQUASH, DRIED CRANBERRIES AND PISTACHIOS

COST PER SERVING \$1.47
HANDS-ON 15 min.
TOTAL 1 hr. 5 min. / SERVES 6

SALAD

- 1 large butternut squash (2½ to 3 lbs.), peeled, seeded, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 bunch Tuscan (lacinato) kale
- ½ cup shelled, toasted, unsalted pistachios, coarsely chopped
- 34 cup dried cranberries

DRESSING:

- 1 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 small shallot, minced
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil Salt and pepper
- 1 Preheat oven to 400°F. In a large bowl, toss squash with oil; season with salt and pepper. Spread out in a single layer on a large rimmed baking sheet. Roast, stirring and turning often, until tender and lightly caramelized, 45 to 50 minutes.
 2 Remove stems and large ribs from kale. Working with a few at a time, stack leaves, roll into a long cylinder and cut crosswise into thin ribbons. Place in a large bowl.
- 3 Make dressing: Combine vinegar, lemon juice, mustard and shallot in a small bowl. Whisk in both oils until emulsified. Season with ¼ tsp. each salt and pepper.
- 4 Just before serving, toss kale with dressing. Add squash, pistachios and cranberries. Toss together well and season with additional salt and pepper, if desired.
- **PER SERVING** 350 Cal., 19g Fat (2g Sat.), 0mg Chol., 7g Fiber, 6g Pro., 46g Carb., 455mg Sod.

CHILI-ROASTED ACORN SQUASH

- COST PER SERVING 61¢ / HANDS-ON 10 min. / TOTAL 50 min. / SERVES 6
- 2 acorn squash, scrubbed
- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- ½ tsp. paprika
 Salt and pepper
- 1) Preheat oven to 400°F. Cut each squash in half lengthwise and remove seeds. Trim and discard ends, then cut each half crosswise into slices that are about 1 inch thick.
- 2 Place slices in a large bowl; add oil, chili powder, cumin, paprika, 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp.

pepper. Toss to coat.
Arrange slices flat on
2 large baking sheets.
Roast until lightly
browned and tender,
turning once, 35 to
40 minutes. Season with
additional salt and
pepper, if desired.
PER SERVING 120 Cal., 7g Fat
(1g Sat.), 0mg Chol., 2g Fiber,
1g Pro., 15g Carb., 229mg Sod.



SHRIMP, MUSHROOM AND SNOW PEA STIR-FRY COST PER SERVING \$3.34/TOTAL 35 min./SERVES 4 ½ cup low-sodium 1 In a small bowl, mix broth, soy sauce, chicken broth ginger and cornstarch. 2 Tbsp. low-sodium soy 2 Warm oil in a large nonstick skillet or sauce wok over medium-high heat until 2 Tbsp. grated fresh shimmering. Cook mushrooms, stirring, ginger until their liquid has evaporated and they 1 tsp. cornstarch have browned, 6 to 10 minutes. Add snow 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil peas; stir-fry until crisp-tender, about 8 oz. sliced mushrooms 2 minutes. Toss in shrimp and cook, stirring, until pink, 3 to 5 minutes. Add 8 oz. snow peas, strings removed scallions; stir-fry 30 seconds more. Stir 1 lb. medium or large broth mixture; pour into pan. Stir-fry until shrimp, peeled, deveined shrimp are opaque and sauce has thickened slightly, approximately 2 scallions, white and light 1 minute. Season with salt and pepper green parts, thinly sliced and serve over rice or rice noodles, if Salt and pepper, desired. optional PER SERVING 166 Cal., 5g Fat (1g Sat.), 143mg Chol., Cooked rice or rice 2g Fiber, 20g Pro., 10g Carb., 951mg Sod. noodles for serving, optional VII. DID YOU KNOW MUSHROOMS ARE PACKED WITH B VITAMINS?

T PER SERVING 35 DS-ON 25 min. / TOTAL 1 hr. SERVES 6

- 6 portobellos, stemmed Salt and pepper
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 12 oz. hot Italian sausage, casing removed
- 3 medium tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1 tsp. chopped fresh oregano (or ½ tsp. dried)
- 1/4 tsp. crushed red pepper
- 34 cup shredded mozzarella
- 1 Preheat oven to 375°F. Holding a portobello in 1 hand, use a small spoon to gently scrape out gills from underside. Repeat with rest of mushrooms. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place portobellos flat, gill side down, on a large baking sheet; bake until slightly softened and just beginning to give off liquid, 10 to 15 minutes. (Time will vary according to size of portobellos.) Pat gill side dry with paper towels. 2 Warm oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook onion, stirring, until softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Add garlic; sauté 1 minute more. Add sausage and cook, breaking up large pieces, until no longer pink, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in tomatoes and increase heat to high. Cook, stirring, until liquid has evaporated, 10 to 12 minutes. Stir in oregano and red pepper. Season with salt and pepper. 3 Divide sausage mixture among portobellos, filling gill side of each with about ½ cup. Top with mozzarella. Bake until cooked through and cheese is melted, about 10 minutes. Serve immediately. PER SERVING 316 Cal., 26g Fat (9g Sat.), 54mg Chol., 2g Fiber, 14g Pro., 8g Carb.,

709mg Sod.



MUSHROOM AND GOAT CHEESE BRUSCHETTA

COST PER SERVING 80¢ / HANDS-ON 30 min. / TOTAL 45 min. / YIELDS 16 pieces

6g Pro., 20g Carb., 352mg Sod.

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 small shallot, minced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 10 oz. fresh mushrooms, trimmed, coarsely chopped Salt and pepper
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 2 tsp. lemon juice
- 16 slices French or Italian bread, cut diagonally about 1/2 inch thick
- 6 oz. soft goat cheese, at room temperature
- 1 Preheat oven to 375°F. Warm 2 Tbsp. oil in a skillet over medium heat. Sauté shallot until softened, about 3 minutes. Add garlic; sauté 30 seconds. Add mushrooms, season with salt and pepper and increase heat to high. Cook, stirring occasionally, until mushrooms are tender and most of liquid has evaporated, about 7 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in parsley and lemon juice. Season with additional salt and pepper, if desired. 2 Brush bread on both sides with remaining 2 Tbsp. oil; place in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake until golden and crisp, 6 to 8 minutes, turning once. Spread goat cheese on bread slices and top each with a heaping tablespoonful of mushroom mixture. Serve. PER SERVING (1 PIECE) 158 Cal., 6g Fat (2g Sat.), 5mg Chol., 1g Fiber,

WILD RICE SALAD COST PER SERVING \$1.20 HANDS-ON 15 min. **TOTAL** 3 hr. 15 min. / **SERVES** 6 1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries, thawed if frozen 1 cup sugar THESE RUBY GEMS CAN MAKE SO MUCH MORE 1 cup wild rice, rinsed Salt and pepper 3/4 cup coarsely chopped toasted pecans 3 Tbsp. olive oil 2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar 2 scallions, white and light

CRANBERRY OAT BARS

COST PER SERVING 66ϕ / HANDS-ON 30 min. / TOTAL 3 hr. / YIELDS 16 squares

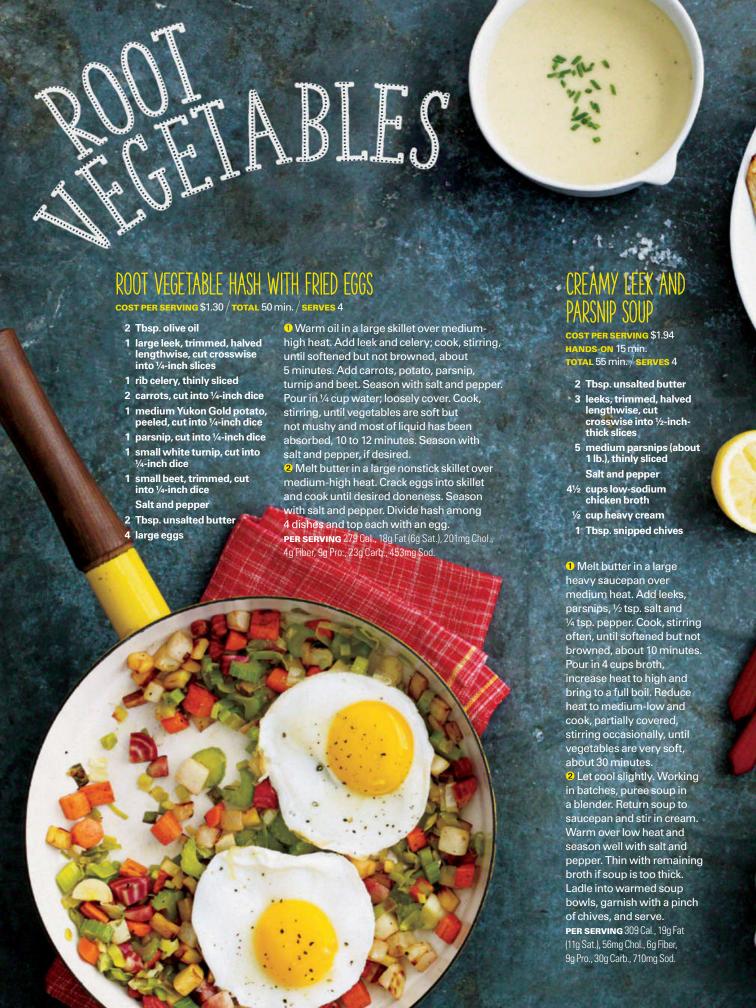
- 2 cups fresh or frozen
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 Tbsp. orange marmalade
- 2 tsp. finely grated lemon zest
- 11/2 cups rolled oats
- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 10 Tbsp. (11/4 sticks) cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 Combine cranberries, sugar, marmalade and zest in a small pan. Add 2 Tbsp. water; bring to a boil, stirring and slightly crushing berries. Reduce heat to medium-high; cook until reduced to 1 cup, 5 to 10 minutes, stirring often. Transfer to a bowl, partially cover and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled, at least

- 2 hours. (May be made up to 3 days in advance; keep covered and chilled.)
- 2 Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat a 9-inch square baking pan with cooking spray. Line with foil, allowing an overhang of 2 inches; spray foil.
- 3 Combine oats, flour, brown sugar, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Use your fingers or a pastry blender to work butter into mixture until butter is the size of small peas.
- 4 Press 1/2 of oat mixture in bottom of pan. Spread cranberry mixture evenly over crust. Crumble remaining oat mixture on top; pack down slightly. Bake until top and edges are lightly browned, approximately 30 minutes. Allow to cool completely before cutting. PER SERVING (1 SQUARE) 223 Cal., 8g Fat (5g Sat.), 19mg Chol., 2g Fiber, 2g Pro., 37g Carb., 93mg Sod.

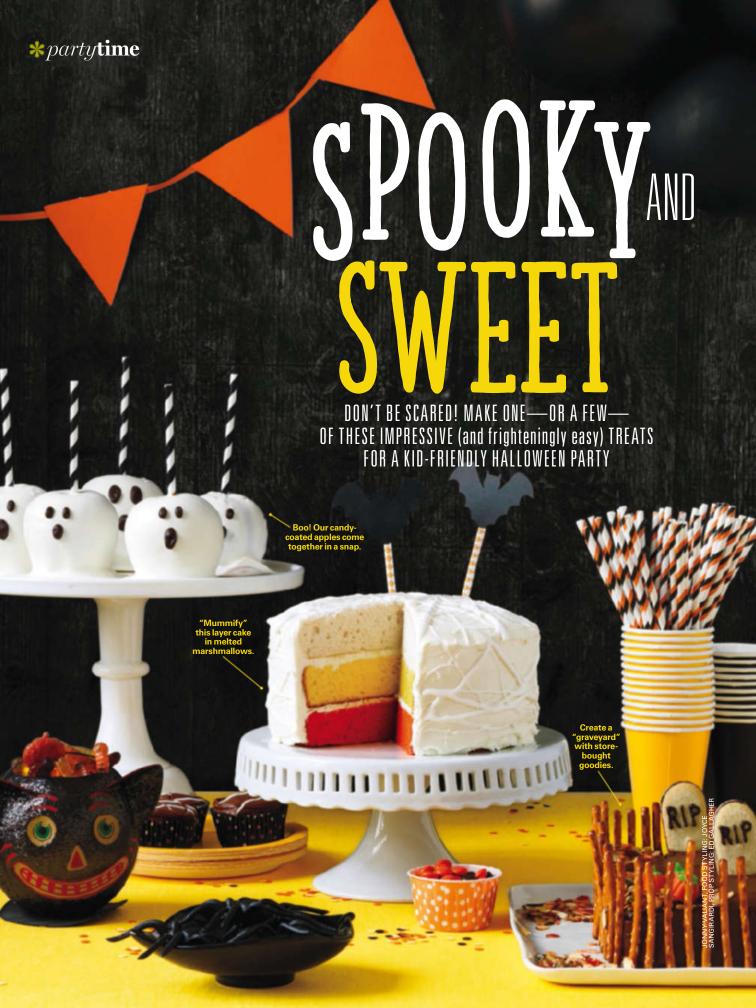
- green parts, thinly sliced
- 1 Cut each cranberry in half. Combine sugar and ½ cup water in a small pan. Bring to a boil, stirring just until sugar has dissolved. Boil until clear but not thickened, about 1 minute. Remove from heat: stir in cranberries and let steep in syrup until bright red and softened, about 15 minutes. Strain and chill cranberries. (Reserve strained syrup for another use.) 2 Place rice in a large covered
- pan; pour in 1 quart water. Add 1 tsp. salt; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and cover. Simmer until rice is tender and grains have started to open, 50 to 55 minutes. Drain well, rinse under cold water and drain again (you should have about 3 cups total).
- 3 Transfer rice to a large bowl. Add cranberries, pecans, oil, vinegar and scallions. Mix gently; season with salt and pepper. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Serve cold.

PER SERVING 391 Cal., 17g Fat (2g Sat.), Omg Chol., 4g Fiber, 5g Pro., 58g Carb., 398mg Sod.











- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 Tbsp. red liquid food coloring
- 1 Tbsp. white vinegar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 11/2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs

FROSTING:

- 1 8-oz. package cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
 - White decorating gel (such as Betty Crocker)

- 1 Preheat oven to 350° F. Place paper liners in 2 12-cup muffin tins.
- 2 Make cupcakes: In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt. In a small bowl, whisk together buttermilk, red coloring, vinegar and vanilla. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter and sugar until fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition and scraping down sides of bowl. Alternate adding dry ingredients and buttermilk

mixture, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Beat until just incorporated.

- 3 Divide batter evenly among paper liners, filling each about halfway. Bake until a toothpick inserted into center of a cupcake comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Cool in pans on wire rack for 10 minutes, then remove cupcakes from pans to rack to cool completely. Make frosting: In a large
- bowl, using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat cream cheese and butter until creamy, about 3 minutes. Beat in vanilla. Gradually beat in

- sugar and cocoa powder until well combined.
- Spread chocolate-cream cheese frosting on cupcakes and arrange on a platter in a tight, circular formation. Use decorating gel to pipe concentric circles, starting with small circle in center and getting larger toward outer edge. Starting in center, drag a toothpick through circles, as though you were making spokes on a wheel, to complete large web design.
- PER SERVING (1 CUPCAKE) 282 Cal., 12g Fat (7g Sat.), 47mg Chol., 1g Fiber, 3g Pro., 42g Carb., 230mg Sod.



MMIFIED CANDY-CORN CAKE

- 31/4 cups cake flour
- 11/2 Tbsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 cup plus 2 Tbsp. whole milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 14 Tbsp. (1¾ sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 11/4 cups sugar
 - 5 large egg whites
- 21/2 tsp. yellow gel food coloring (such as Betty Crocker)
- 1/4 tsp. red gel food coloring
- 2 16-oz. cans vanilla frosting
- 1/4 10-oz. bag large marshmallows
- 1 Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat 3 8-inch round cake pans with cooking spray. Line bottoms with parchment; mist again with cooking spray.
- 2 Make batter: In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and salt. measuring cup. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer on medium speed, beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy, scraping down sides of bowl.
- 3 Reduce speed to low and alternate adding flour and milk mixtures to butter (begin and end with flour), until just combined. In a clean medium bowl with clean beaters, beat

3 minutes. Using a rubber spatula, fold egg whites into batter in 3 additions.

- 4 Create layers: Divide batter in 3 medium bowls (2 cups each). Add 11/2 tsp. yellow coloring to 1 bowl; stir. Add red coloring and 1 tsp. yellow coloring to second bowl; stir. Leave third bowl white. Spread batter into pans. Bake until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean, about 25 minutes. Cool in pans on a wire rack for 5 minutes, then remove to rack to cool completely.
- **5** Level tops of cake layers with a serrated knife, if necessary. Dab small amount of frosting in center of cake stand and top with orange layer. Spread 1 cup frosting on top; add yellow layer and align sides.

Spread 1 cup frosting over yellow layer, then top with white layer and align. Spread remaining frosting around sides, then over top. Smooth with a knife or spatula.

6 In a microwave-safe bowl, microwave marshmallows on high for 30 seconds. Stir until smooth and just warm to the touch. Pull off a piece about the size of 1 marshmallow and stretch between thumb

and forefinger of both hands until thin. Drape strand over and around cake. Repeat until you reach desired "mummy" effect. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving. PER SERVING 668 Cal., 27g Fat (11g Sat.), 38mg Chol., 1g Fiber, 6g Pro.,

103g Carb., 461mg Sod.





COST PER SERVING 55¢ HANDS-ON 15 min. TOTAL 1 hr. 30 min. YIELDS 1 10-by-12-inch piece (about 24 servings)

- 8 oz. milk chocolate, chopped
- 8 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped Reese's peanut butter cups, quartered Kit Kat bars, gummy

worms, candy corn, M&M's and candy eyes (such as Wilton)

- Line a large baking sheet with parchment.
- In a large heatproof bowl set over a medium pot of just-simmering water, melt milk and semisweet chocolate, stirring occasionally. Remove bowl from pot and allow to cool for 15 minutes.
- Pour chocolate onto baking sheet and spread into rectangle measuring 10 by 12 inches, about 1/4 inch thick. Arrange candy on top of chocolate, pressing down slightly.
- 4 Refrigerate bark until just set, about 1 hour. With a sharp knife, cut into pieces. Chill in refrigerator until ready to serve.

PER SERVING 193 Cal., 11g Fat (7g Sat.), 4mg Chol., 1g Fiber, 3g Pro., 24g Carb., 20mg Sod.





COST PER SERVING \$1.42 HANDS-ON 20 min. / TOTAL 1 hr. **SERVES** 6

- 6 small apples, scrubbed, stems removed
- 2 12-oz. bags white candy
- 1/4 cup semisweet chocolate
- 1 Line a baking sheet with parchment. Grease with cooking spray.
- 2 Insert a wooden skewer or heavy-duty cake-pop stick through top of each apple. In a medium microwave-safe bowl, melt candy melts on high until smooth, stirring halfway through, about 3 minutes total. 3 Dip apples in melted candy

by tilting bowl and turning apples to coat, spooning additional melted candy over apples, if necessary. Place dipped apples on prepared baking sheet. Place sheet in refrigerator to chill for at least 30 minutes.

- 4 Melt chocolate chips in a small microwave-safe bowl on high until smooth, stirring at
- 20-second intervals, about 1 minute. Spoon chocolate into one corner of a ziplock bag; using scissors, cut a small hole in corner. Pipe eyes and mouth on each apple. Chill apples at least 10 minutes or until ready to serve.

PER SERVING 408 Cal., 19g Fat (17g Sat.), Omg Chol., 2g Fiber, 1g Pro., 60g Carb., 65mg Sod.





DESERTED GRAVEYARD CAKE

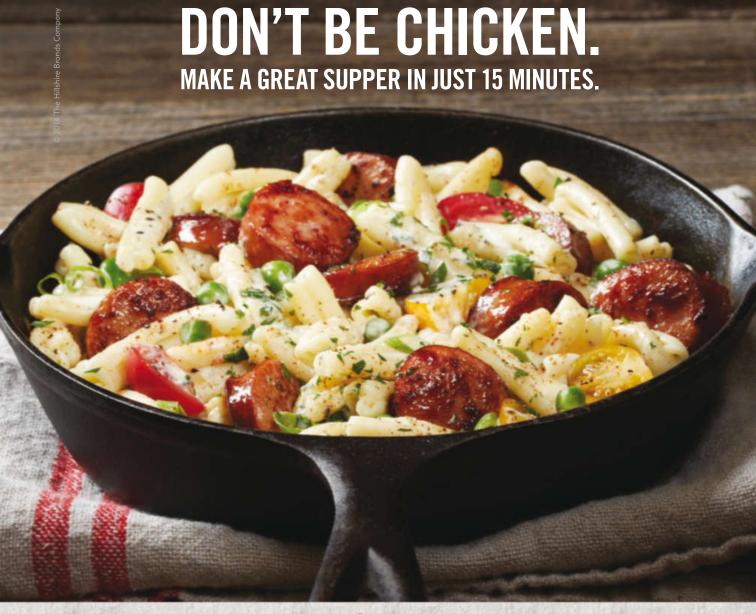
COST PER SERVING \$1.09 / HANDS-ON \$35 min. / TOTAL \$2\$ hr. \$40\$ min. / SERVES \$12\$

- 21/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 34 cup whole milk
- 1 cup (2 sticks) plus 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1½ cups sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- 1 Tbsp. pumpkin seeds, toasted
 - Red, yellow and brown liquid food coloring
- 1 16-oz. can chocolate frosting
- 7 cookies (such as Milano)
- 1/2 12-oz. bag small pretzel sticks
- 1/4 cup candy corn

- Preheat oven to 350°F. Fill a medium pot with water; bring to a boil. Line a 13-by-9-inch pan with a length of foil, letting foil edges hang over at least 2 inches on longer sides of pan. Grease and flour pan. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, stir together cocoa powder and ½ cup boiling water; whisk in milk until smooth.
- 2 Using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in eggs, 1 at a time, and vanilla. Reduce speed to low; add flour and cocoa mixtures, alternating each 3 times, scraping down sides of bowl.
- 3 Pour batter into prepared pan and, using a rubber spatula, spread smoothly. Bake, rotating halfway through, until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean, about 35 minutes. Cool in pan for 1 hour; using foil as handles, remove cake from pan and turn out onto a tray to cool completely.
- 4 Color leaves: In a small bowl, combine sliced almonds and pumpkin seeds with 3 drops of red coloring. Gently mix with a spoon. Repeat with drops of yellow and brown coloring, as desired.
- 5 Decorate cake: Place 2 Tbsp. frosting in a ziplock bag. Cut a small hole in corner and pipe

- RIP onto cookies. Cover top and sides of cake with remaining frosting. Adhere pretzel sticks along sides, about ¼ inch apart, leaving 2 2-inch gaps for path. Create path with candy corn.
- 6 Cut 7 small slits on top of cake and insert gravestone cookies; scatter almonds and pumpkin seeds at each cookie, and at corners and edges of cake, to resemble fall leaves. Add candy pumpkins around cake, as desired.
- **PER SERVING** 680 Cal., 30g Fat (14g Sat.), 97mg Chol., 3g Fiber, 8g Pro., 98g Carb., 553mg Sod.





Sausage CHICKEN ALFREDO READY IN: 1HOUR 15 minutes

1 pkg. Hillshire Farm Smoked Sausage

3 chicken breast halves, cubed 2 thaps: butter, divided 2 cloves garlie, minced, divided 2 thaps: chopped flat-leaf paraley 1-1/2 taps: Italian seasoning 1/2 enion, diced 1-1/2 taps, salt 1/2 tap, ground white pepper

8 oz. pasta, cooked, drained 2 cups heavy cream 2 tsp. Cajun seasoning 1/2 cup grated Parmesan 1. Prepare pasta according to package directions; drain and set aside.

Sauté sausage for 5 minutes.

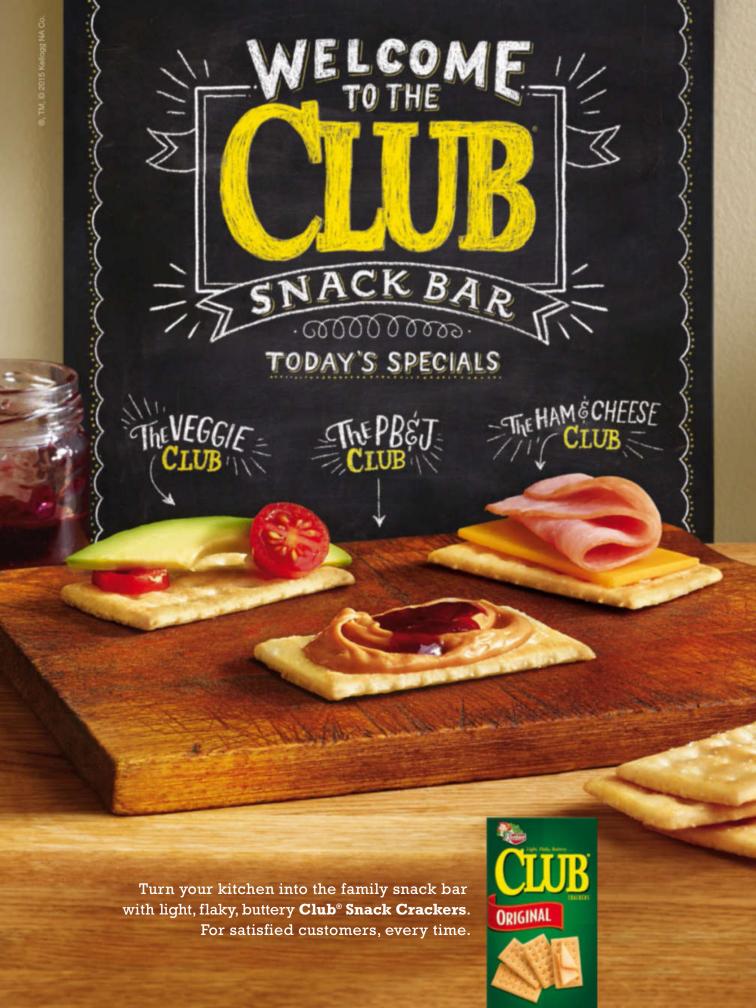
2. Cook chicken in butter, season with salt, white pepper and Italian season-ing in a large skillet over medium high-heat until chicken is no longer pink.

Stir in onion and parsley, cook until—onions are transparent.

3. Add garlie eleves, cream and Cajun seasoning and hoil. Reduce heat; simmer 3–4 mins.or until mixture begins to thicken. Stir in Parmesan. Add pasta and toss.

Great additions are peas, tomatoes or any of your favorite vegetables. Just stir them in and simmer.







Smart Food Advice

Helpful tips to make your time in the kitchen easier and tastier

ENTERTAINING MADE **EASY**



Talk about supercute snacks! Use a portable chalkboard as a cheese plate, or craft your own. This version, by Kelsie and Lexi Aziz of pizzaandchampagne.com, is actually a piece of craft wood covered in nontoxic chalkboard paint. Even easier? Apply chalkboard paint to a piece of poster board and cut that to fit a serving tray. Place a variety of cheeses (Cheddar and blue cheese, say, as well as a softer option, like Brie) on top with small pieces of parchment or waxed paper (to make cleanup quicker and easier). Write the name of each cheese in chalk and fill out the tray, if desired, with apple slices, crackers, dried fruit, jam, nuts or other treats.

BIG FLAVOR SLOW ROAST

Fresh garlic transforms in the oven, losing its raw bite and becoming caramelized and rich. To roast, cut off the very top of a head of garlic; drizzle with oil. Wrap in foil and bake for 30 minutes at 400°F or until soft. Cool slightly; squeeze the garlic pulp out of the head and into a bowl. Then enjoy:

- Liven up your favorite sour cream or Greek yogurt-based dip with a few cloves.
- Stir into mashed potatoes or toss with roasted root vegetables or broccoli.
- Using an immersion **5** blender or a food processor, add a few cloves to almost any flavor of hummus.
- In the same way, add to a vinaigrette or Caesar dressing for a mellow garlicky hit.
- Spread a bit on bread to go with your favorite pasta dish.





Build endless possibilities.





Strawberry Cream Cheese Waffle Sandwiches

COST PER SERVING \$1.30 / HANDS-ON 10 min. / TOTAL 15 min. / SERVES 4

- 4 ounces Neufchâtel (about ½ cup)
- 4 tsp. brown sugar
- 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 3/4 cup sliced strawberries
- 8 frozen multigrain waffles (such as Kashi), toasted

The night before: Place cheese, sugar and cinnamon in a medium bowl; beat with a mixer at medium speed until well blended. Store covered in the refrigerator. In the morning: Gently fold in strawberries. Spread about 3 Tbsp. cheese mixture over each of 4 waffles; top with remaining 4 waffles.

PER SERVING 269 Cal., 9g Fat (4g Sat.), 20mg Chol., 7g Fiber, 10g Pro., 42g Carb., 443mg Sod.

5500

COOKER TO BUY IT. See page 2.



A SLOW COOKER WITH CHARACTER

Our favorite appliance has gone mod. This slow cooker by Bella Housewares—available in fun colors including purple, lime

green and hot pink—can be preprogrammed, so you can set it and walk away. The hinged lid has a slot for a spoon (to help keep your counter clean), and it locks for easy transport.

Linea Collection 5-quart programmable slow cooker, \$40; walmart.com.

Give your child Rice Krispies and see what they create.











UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GETTING A FLU SHOT AND CHOOSING ONE.

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BRING OUT THEIR INNER WRITER

Have your children write a letter about how much they love a family member, or get them to jot down a funny story from school. (Your little ones can just practice their ABCs or can dictate a story to an older sibling.) Encourage the kids to illustrate their note or story. If you want to go all out, make multicolor muffin-tin crayons (visit allvou.com/homemade-cravons for the how-to guide). At dinner the kids can read aloud what they've written so the family can enjoy it.



MAKE PLAY DOUGH

Prep the dough beforehand-maybe during the weekend (visit allyou.com/ make-play-dough for the recipe). Or, if you've got time, do it with your kids after school—they're sure to enjoy stirring and pouring. While you're making dinner, have your kids sit at the kitchen table and play a design game. Say, "Make me something scary!" Your kids can then mold their best shark or dinosaur-whatever they deem frightening. Or, "Make me something you saw today!" The possibilities are endless.



GET THEM PICKING

Have a garden, or just some potted basil on your windowsill? Send your children to find produce or herbs for dinner. And get them to taste or smell what they pick, so they can try to understand what flavor it contributes to your meal. If nothing's ready this time of year, suggest they water the plants (kids enjoy watering, and it's a time-saver for you). To keep it fun,

don't have them pick weeds-kids see that as a chore.

Source: Barb Webb, founder of the ruralmom.com blog

 $\textbf{HOW\,IKEEP\,MY\,KIDS\,BUSY'\,\'a} fter school, I typically take\,my\,kids\,to\,the\,park\,for\,at\,least\,an\,hour\,before\,we\,all\,head\,home.\,Because\,a$ they've been running around and playing, they end up physically exhausted when we get back to the house, so they're completely happy doing something quiet, like reading or building with Legos, while I make dinner." - Lisa Greissinger, 53, New York City









THEY HAVE A MISSION: ENRICH KIDS' LIVES

WHETHER PLANTING GARDENS, PROMOTING FITNESS, SHARING THE GIFT OF MUSIC OR TEACHING TECHNOLOGY, THESE SEVEN WOMEN ARE ENSURING SCHOOLCHILDREN ARE PREPARED TO BE HEALTHY, HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL By Alison Gwinn







GIRLS IN THE GAME, CHICAGO girlsinthegame.org

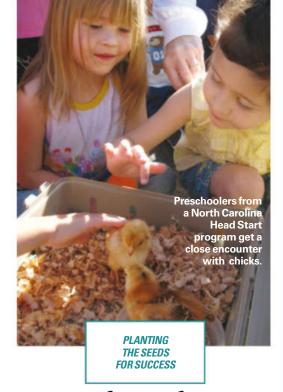
Think sports are just kid stuff? Not according to Amy Skeen, the president emeritus of Girls in the Game. "Sports are so much more than fun and games," she says. "They allow you to challenge yourself to be a leader, understand the importance of teamwork, push yourself to set goals and take risks, and learn that working hard can help you accomplish amazing things."

Those are some of the lessons that the Chicago nonprofit, founded in 1995, tries to instill in the 3,500 girls it helps every year through athletics. Why sports for girls? "Studies show that boys, regardless of where they live, get a decent amount of access to health and fitness programs, as do girls in suburbs," says Amy, 45, who grew up in a small town in Iowa, where she had lots of chances to play. "But if you are a girl living in a city, you are the low person on the totem pole."

Girls in the Game answers that need by

working with 60 schools weekly—using their gymnasiums, outdoor play yards or nearby parks. It enlists the help of student-athletes from Chicago-area universities including DePaul, Loyola and Northwestern, who teach girls a basic tennis serve, how to kick a soccer ball, how to play basketball or softball—"almost any kind of sport you can imagine," says Amy, the mother of two young boys.

"But what we are really aiming for is that the girls feel better about themselves. When we put together a girls' triathlon team, one girl had no idea what a triathlon even was, and it was scary for her. Over and over, she wanted to quit. I said, 'No, you're not quitting.' And she said, 'Well, you're not doing it!' And I told her, 'If you do a triathlon this year, I will do my first one next year.' And I did. She did six more triathlons after that—and you could see how she started to believe in herself and apply that confidence to her daily life. She finished high school, went on to college, and now she comes back to mentor other girls. I have a million stories like that. Just having someone believe in you can change your whole outlook."



Emily Jackson

GROWING MINDS, ASHEVILLE, N.C. growing-minds.org

"There's an old adage among teachers: It's better to ask for forgiveness than permission," says Emily Jackson, 53. That's exactly what Emily did back in 1999 when she was teaching secondand third-graders in Waynesville, N.C. She unilaterally created a garden outside her classroom ("fortunately, I had a principal who was willing to overlook my negligence of the rules") and watched what sprouted, both in the soil and in the classroom.

"I found that we didn't have any behavioral problems out in the garden," Emily says. "The kids wanted to explore, they wanted to eat things. They wanted to follow up in the classroom on what they had discovered." Realizing she was on to something, in 2002, with the help of the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, she launched Growing Minds, one of the earliest farm-to-school programs in the United States.

Suddenly kids who'd

had no idea where their food came from were learning about local farms and healthy diets. The program was so successful that Emily worked to help other schools create their own gardens.

Last school year, more than 14,000 schoolchildren in 20 different counties benefited from farm-to-school programs with the help of Growing Minds, which provided recipes for schools, facilitated field trips and led cooking classes. The organization also has partnered with several nearby universities to teach farm-to-school courses to college students who plan to be teachers, dietitians and health professionals.

But ultimately, it's all about the kids. "When we ask the parents to report back on the program," Emily says, "we hear things like 'My child eats more fruits and vegetables' or 'My child wants to head for the produce section in the grocery.' And to me that is golden."

BREAKING BARRIERS **FOR GIRLS OF COLOR**

KIMBERLY BRYANT

BLACK GIRLS CODE, OAKLAND, CALIF. blackgirlscode.com

During her career as one of the few black women working in biotech, Kimberly Bryant, 48, wished she'd had more support. "It was very tough to find mentors and role models," she says, "because there were just so few women around. particularly women of color."

When her 12-year-old daughter expressed an interest in game development, Kimberly had a "lightbulb moment." Having just taken a corporate buyout and eager to create her own startup. she launched Black Girls Code in 2011 to provide tech classes for girls. Today, the organization has chapters in nine U.S. cities, as well as in Johannesburg, South Africa, and has served more than 3,000 students ages 6 to 17. (The classes are open to all girls that age, though BGC conducts specific outreach to underrepresented communities, including black, Hispanic, Native American and Filipino girls.)

With the help of more than 2,000 volunteers, the nonprofit offers instruction in robotics, electronics, mobile applications, Web design, game development and more. Funding comes from grants, donations and corporate partners such as Google and Verizon.

'Our goal is to give the girls a really strong skill set," Kimberly says, "in order to create the next leaders in technology, whether the girls go into coding, software

engineering, design or sales and marketing. We want to create the female Mark **Zuckerbergs of** the future.



Girls in Atlanta learning to code.

UNLEASHING THE POWER **OF MUSIC**

Dinorah Marquez

LATINO ARTS STRINGS PROGRAM, **MILWAUKEE**

latinoartsinc.org/strings.htm

Dinorah Marquez and her family immigrated to the United States from Mexico when she was 10 years old. Dinorah was painfully shy and spoke no English, but shortly after she came to this country, she and her brother were given the opportunity to learn the violin. "Music saved my life—and my brother's," she says. "It kept him away from gangs, and it gave me a voice. It was through music that I expressed myself."

Determined to give that same experience to other children, Dinorah founded the Latino Arts Strings Program (LASP) in Milwaukee in 2002 with 23 students. The program now trains more than 180 children each year, ages 5 to 18, most of them immigrants or children of immigrants. Families pay \$65 per year to acquire either a violin, a viola, a cello, a bass or a classical guitar—a fee that also covers private and group music lessons. All students must practice daily and perform at least three solo concerts a year; they're also trained to compete for a spot in the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra, which gives several performances every year, as well as four levels of Mariachi groups.

"Our students are classically trained, but they also explore techniques with Mexican and Latin American music," says Dinorah, 54.

Dinorah herself works double time: Not only does she teach 35 hours per week, she administers LASP and directs performing ensembles. "Some weeks seem like they're three weeks long," she says, "but it is a labor of love. When I see a child who is 5 years old first learn to hold a bow, or when I hear that one of our students has won a \$10,000-a-year Latin Grammy scholarship to go to college, that is so beautiful."



GOING BEYOND THE BAKE SALE

STACEY BOYD

SCHOOLA, SAN FRANCISCO

Sometimes the simplest ideas have the biggest results. Just ask Stacey Boyd, 45, who in the spring of 2013 launched Schoola, to help schools raise money to pay for art, drama, music and other programs that otherwise would not exist. "Schoola was really the result of the financial crisis," Stacey

U.S., where 80 percent of schools have seen some sort of funding cuts since 2008."

How does Schoola do it? By organizing programs in schools—more than 14,500 at last children's and women's clothes, sell them through Schoola's website and reap the revenues. "We started with five schools in the Bay Area," Stacey says. "They collected about in 2013, and when we opened up our first online store that August, we sold 25 percent of the inventory in the first week."

schoolteacher who went on to found an acclaimed inner-city charter school in Boston and then eventually launched a consulting firm, where she worked around the globe with such organizations as the World Economic
Forum and the U.S. State Department on
education projects.
But Schoola might well be her most brilliant

idea yet. Typically, a school will hold a clothing drive, request shipping labels from the Schoola website and then ship whatever is collected to a warehouse in Columbus, Ohio. There, items are scanned, tagged and sold

the proceeds going back to the schools.

The revenue from the sales can really add up quickly. "We just wrote a check for \$22,000 to a school here in San Francisco that had

only \$1 in its budget for an arts program," Stacey says.
"Making sure that kids have
equitable access to education s what gets me out of bed in the morning. And Schoola makes so much sense—it's a win-win for everyone."





LSU COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND PROJECT, **BATON ROUGE, LA.**

For one Louisiana State University professor and her biological engineering students, the three R's are joined by a fourth: recess. The team has helped build 30 muchneeded playgrounds at public elementary schools in the Baton Rouge area.

And they take play seriously. "We want to make sure every child has access to a safe, fun playgroundand one that they had a hand in designing," says Marybeth Lima, 49, known as the Playground Lady. "I want the playgrounds we build to embody what the kids at a school are passionate about." Explains Marybeth, "Often, besides putting in places where children can swing and climb, we will add stages so kids can act, put on plays, pretend they're rock stars or Dancing with the Stars contestants-whatever they like."

The playgrounds are built with the help of school fund-raisers and grants. And Marybeth's teamincluding former students who volunteer their time-considers a school's unique population. They've designed playgrounds for children with gross-motor-skill delays, for example, and even those who are visually impaired. In the case of the

"I LOVE THE WORK THAT I DO. THE KIDS—THEY DREAM BIG. THE IDEAS THEY COME UP WITH ARE AWESOME.



HELPING KIDS LEARN TO LIVE **HEALTHIER**

Nancy Easton

WELLNESS IN THE SCHOOLS,

wellnessintheschools.org

As a vice principal at a New York City public school, Nancy Easton, 49, watched too many kids "coming to school with a bag of chips and a soda for breakfast, eating processed food at lunch and then often running around getting into fights or not being active." She figured she had to do something. "Here we were," she says, "teaching students how to behave and how to read and write, but we were also teaching them to eat chicken fingers for lunch—which I felt was the wrong message."

So in 2005, she co-founded Wellness in the Schools, whose goal is to make schools healthier places to learn. The nonprofit—which focuses on fitness and environmental awareness as well as nutrition-serves 40,000 students in 75 public schools in the city as well as

kindergarten through 12th grade, with the goal of eventually expanding into a national program.

Through its Cook for Kids program, which partners with the New York City Education Department, Wellness in the Schools trains recent culinary school graduates, who work with cafeteria staffs to prepare healthful school lunches, including a

"THE KIDS WILL MAKE RECIPES IN CLASS ONE DAY, AND THE FOOD WILL BE ON THEIR LUNCH MENU THE NEXT WEEK."

salad bar (with freshly made dressing) in every school, no sweetened milk, and a meatless lunch one day a week. "Seventy-five percent of the students in New York City public schools live below the poverty line," Easton says, "and that meal is often the only hot one of the day for these children."

The chefs also visit classrooms to teach children to cook, working with the same recipes they use in the cafeteria. And under the guidance of "head coach" Steve Weatherford, New York Giants punter, the program brings trained coaches into school yards with a tool kit of games aimed at encouraging even normally inactive kids to participate.

'When we started out, I couldn't have imagined that we would grow to be such a vibrant program," Nancy says. "Now I dream even bigger: I have a vision that every child in this country will eat healthy and play healthy."

latter, Marybeth says, "We made it so that kids can run without hitting anything and where all the children, both visually impaired and those who see, can gather together."

Sometimes, what excites the children is a surprise to Marybeth's team. "One pre-K playground had this little rusty red gate left over from old play equipment. We joked that it looked like the 'gate to nowhere.' But when we talked to the teachers, they said they had created a game in which the kids would run through the gate while yelling the name of a place they wanted to visit in the universe. I realized that the 'gate to nowhere' was really a 'portal to anywhere.' So we kept that gate."

Through it all, Marybeth says she has learned an important lesson: "If you build it, then kids will use it in all the wonderful ways they can."





GRAB YOUR GLUE GUN AND WHIP UP ONE OF THESE AWESOME OUTFITS

"I work a lot with duct tape on my projects, so this costume was a nobrainer. I love that the clothes are usable after Halloween is over!"



Kersey Campbell, andweplay.com

STUFF YOU HAVE

- Black long-sleeve shirt Black leggings Scissors
 Cutting mat Craft knife

STUFF YOU NEED

- Roll of glow-in-the-dark duct tape in white
- 1. Have child put on shirt and leggings.
- 2. Cut a long strip of duct tape for spine and adhere to shirt. Cut two strips for each leg, leaving a gap at knee. Adhere to leggings. Cut two strips for each arm, leaving a gap at elbow. Adhere to sleeves.
- 3. Cut shorter strips of tape for ribs, then cut each strip in half lengthwise to make thinner strips.
- 4. For hip bone, lay two strips of duct tape on cutting mat, so edges slightly overlap. Use craft knife to trim as shown, cutting corners off top edge and making an inverted V on bottom edge. If shirt is long and worn untucked, adhere this piece to shirt. Otherwise, adhere to leggings.



You can't

miss him-

he glows in

the dark!







APPLE CAPE Delia Randall, deliacreates.com

STUFF YOU HAVE

- T-shirt Tape measure Scissors Cardboard
- Tapestry or yarn needle Thread Yarn

STUFF YOU NEED

- 1 to 1½ yards of red felt Polyester batting Fold-over elastic
- Brown felt Green felt
- 1. Cape: Using a T-shirt that fits child, measure length from shoulder to hem and add 2". Double the measurement
- and cut a circle from red felt with a diameter that size. 2. Fold circle in half and mark center. Lay T-shirt on top of felt, so neck is aligned with center of circle. Use shirt as a guide to mark width of neck hole, then cut an oblong hole slightly wider than what you marked. Cut a 2" slit down from neckline so cape slips over child's head easily.
- 3. Cut arm slits on front of cape.
- 4. Hat: Cut a circle of cardboard with a 6" diameter. Cut two circles of red felt, one with a 5" diameter and the other with a 12" diameter. Set smaller one aside. Sew a running stitch, using double-threaded needle, around perimeter of larger felt circle. When you reach end of circle, lay felt on work surface, then lay a handful of batting on top and cardboard circle on top of that. Pull thread tight, gathering felt circle around cardboard batting. Make a few more stitches to secure gathers. Knot thread and remove needle. To tuft hat, thread needle with yarn and insert into center of cardboard. Sew small stitches back and forth until secure. Place hat on work surface, wrong side up. Lay elastic in a loop, with raw ends resting on hat. Glue small felt circle to underside of hat, covering raw edges of elastic.
- 5. Stem and leaves for hat: Cut a 2" x 6" piece of brown felt. Roll; glue to secure. Glue stem to center of hat. Cut a leaf out of green felt and glue next to stem.



"My mom told me about an octopus costume her mom made for her. I loved the idea of re-creating a cherished memory from my mom's childhood, and it inspired me to turn something plain and ordinary into something extraordinary for my own daughter."



OCTOPUS

Mariah Leeson, gigglesgalore.net

STUFF YOU HAVE

• Safety pins • Glue • Double-sided tape • Plain knit hat • Long-sleeve shirt

STUFF YOU NEED

- 4 matching pairs of tights
 Cotton batting or polyester stuffing • Elastic belt • White felt • Black felt
- 1. Stuff 3 pairs of tights with batting, starting at toes and ending 2" to 3" above crotch line.
- 2. Lay belt flat on work surface. Pin waistbands of tights to inside of belt, so legs drape over as shown. (Plan to clasp belt in back.)
- 3. For eyes, cut out two large ovals from white felt and two small circles from black felt. Tape white circles to hat, then tape black circles to white circles.
- 4. Have child put on shirt and remaining pair of tights. Wrap belt with stuffed tights around waist and fasten in back. Arrange hat on head so eyes face forward.

"My son, Levi, created this himself, and he utterly owned it on Halloween. He was the best mummy you ever did see, bar none!"



MUMMY

Janel Hutton, nelliebellie.com

STUFF YOU HAVE

- Scissors White sheets • Optional: 1 quart brewed coffee, water, bucket • White pants • White long-sleeve T-shirt • Face powder
- 1. Use scissors to make cuts in sheets, about 3" apart. Tear sheets into strips. 2. Optional: Pour brewed coffee
- or tea into a bucket or basin; add water to make a light-brown solution. Let strips soak in solution for several hours. Rinse and dry. 3. Dress child in pants and longsleeve T-shirt. Wrap strips around child, tying one strip to next. Wrap torso first, then wrap groin separately (and in a simple fashion, so child can go to the bathroom!). Finish by wrapping limbs, leaving the joints loose enough for child to

walk and move. Apply powder to

face, then wrap head.



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GARDEN

Jillian Wade, foodfolksandfun.net

STUFF YOU HAVE

- Measuring tape
 Scissors
- Tacky glue Cardboard Craft knife • Paintbrush • White top
- Black pants
 Brown shoes

STUFF YOU NEED

- Blue felt Paper party hat with elastic band • 12" x 12" piece of red felt • White elastic or grosgrain ribbon, 1/2" wide . White yarn
- Buckle template (download at allyou.com/buckle-template) . Gold paint • 1 yard black ribbon, 11/2" wide
- 1. Tunic: For length, measure child from shoulder to just above knee. For width, measure around waist; add 2"; divide total by 2. Cut two rectangles out of blue felt using those measurements. Glue or sew shoulder and side seams. Cut bottom edge in a zigzag.

- 2. Hat: Unfold paper hat. Lay it flat on top of red felt; trace around; cut out. Glue felt to hat. Let dry, then roll into hat shape. Glue seam.
- 3. Beard: Cut elastic or ribbon long enough to comfortably slip around child's neck. Tie pieces of yarn to elastic, leaving ends slightly longer than you want them to be. When finished, trim yarn in shape of a beard.
- 4. Belt: Cut out buckle template and place on cardboard; trace around. Cut out, using craft knife. Paint buckle gold; let dry. Cut a piece of black ribbon several inches longer than waist measurement. Weave ribbon through buckle, sliding buckle to center of ribbon.
- 5. Dress child in top, pants and shoes. Put on tunic. Wrap belt around waist so buckle is in front; glue ends together in back. Place elastic beard around neck and tie loosely. Place hat on head.



Abby Larson, stylemeprettyliving.com

STUFF YOU HAVE

- Scissors Stapler Fringing scissors • Long-sleeve T-shirt
- Pants Hot-glue gun Piñata hat template (download at allyou.com/ pinata-hat) . Safety pins

STUFF YOU NEED

- Tissue paper in a variety of colors
- Gold-fringe garland Card stock
- 1. Layer 5 or 6 sheets of a single color of tissue paper. Cut into 3"- to 4"-wide strips, stapling along one edge of strip to keep layers together. Repeat with remaining tissue paper. Fringe each strip with fringing scissors, cutting toward staples. 2. Trim garland so that fringe is
- same length as tissue paper fringe. 3. Cut T-shirt down back so child can slip into it, like a smock.

Beginning at hem of pants, glue fringe in rings around pants, alternating colors as you go. When pants are covered, continue with T-shirt, starting at hem. Add fringe to arms, starting at sleeve cuffs.

- 4. Headpiece: Cut out a strip of card stock, 2" wide and long enough to fit around child's head with 1" extra. Glue ends together to form circle. Place circle on card stock and trace around; cut out. Glue circle to top of band. Place headpiece template on card stock; trace around. Cut out. Glue tabs together, then glue tabs to band. Roll two card-stock cones to form ears and glue to top of headpiece, points facing up.
- 5. Cover headpiece in fringe, starting from bottom and layering rows toward top. Cover ears with fringe, using gold garland at top.
- 6. Dress child in outfit, using safety pins to close shirt in back.

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LOOFAH COSTUME Courtney Sanchez,

Courtney Sanchez, craftsbycourtney.com

STUFF YOU HAVE

• Needle • Thread • Doggie shirt or youth-size shirt • Rope leash

STUFF YOU NEED

- Decorative mesh
- 1. Starting at neck, sew mesh onto shirt, bunching it up as you work. Work around shirt in a circle until shirt is covered. Knot thread.
- 2. Dress dog in shirt and attach rope leash to collar.







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Smart Family Advice Sound strategies for a happier home life

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW **ABOUT FREE-RANGE PARENTING**

Would you let your 10-year-old take a public bus alone? Or would you allow your 7-year-old to ride in an elevator without you? Many parents who embrace so-called free-range parenting would say, "Why not?" Free-range parenting is a backlash to what's known as helicopter parenting: hovering and monitoring the child's every move. Proponents of free-range parenting say kids today are overscheduled and oversupervised. They point out that our world has never been safer, despite sensational headlines that evoke fear in some parents. The idea is not hands-off parenting but focusing on granting kids more freedom and responsibility, and I've personally found that doing so is good for a child's self-esteem and confidence.

IF YOU'RE CONSIDERING

giving free-range parenting a try, ask yourself the following questions. If you can answer yes, be sure to prepare your child before turning him loose. For example, do practice walks with him before letting him walk to a friend's house all on his own.

- Can my child follow rules?
- Does my child know what to do if there is a problem?
- Does my child know whom to ask for help if he needs it?



Your child

might be



Kristen C. Wynns, PhD, a child and adolescent psychologist, is owner of Wynns Family Psychology (wynns familypsychology.com) in Cary, N.C. Have a question for her? Visit allyou.com/askwynns.

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GOT TWO MINUTES?

MAKE A LOVE CONNECTION

It can be far too easy for spouses to drift apart over time, especially kids and household. Before you know it, you can feel more like roommates than husband and wife. That's why it's important to make the effort to stay bonded romantically and emotionally, even when life gets crazy busy. A few easy ways to take advantage of fleeting moments: Grab his hand as you take the kids around the neighborhood for a walk. Bring home his favorite coffee or ice cream flavor.

Initiate a tickle fight (sounds silly, but kids love watching their parents play this way).

Write "I love you" in the steam on the shower glass or bathroom mirror for a morning surprise. Send him a text message that says why you're glad you married him.



You've got a toddler in one arm and your groceries in the other, and your kevs are buried at the bottom of your purse. Help! Solution: You can wear the Big O silicone key ring (\$28: o-venture .com) like a bangle on your wrist so you always have vour kevs right there when running errands.





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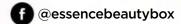
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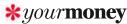




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TECH UPDATES, FINANCIAL TIPS AND BRIGHT IDEAS FOR STRETCHING EVERY DOLLAR







Don't let a less-than-stellar credit rating dampen your holiday fun. The CapitalOne Secured MasterCard can help you repair your numbers. Put down a minimum security deposit of \$49 and receive a card that regularly reports your usage to all three major credit bureaus and gives you free access to your credit score. Need a larger limit? Add to your deposit and you could get a line of credit as high as \$3,000.

The gift that keeps on... well, you know

Hey, why should family and friends be the only ones getting something? The Chase Sapphire Preferred card gives you 40,000 bonus points-the equivalent of \$400 (\$500 if you use the card to book travel) when you charge \$4,000 in the first three months. (Tip: To reach the requirement, use the card to pay monthly bills.) You also can transfer your points to participating travel programs and earn double points on travel and dining purchases.

Many happy returns

If you have a lot of finicky family members on your Christmas list, you might want to check out the Discover Card Return Guarantee program. It's one of the best around, offering refunds of up to \$500 per item (a maximum of \$2,500 per account annually) if a store doesn't accept your return within 90 days of purchase. Keep in mind: You'd need to submit a signed claim form, your Discover card statement and the sales receipt, plus pay for the postage to return

a salesperson probably will try to lure you into signing up for a store credit card. Resist. even if you're being offered something sweet in exchange (say, a 15 percent discount on vour current purchase). Apply only after you've researched

BUYER

BEWARE!

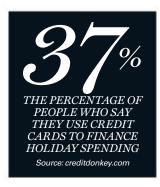
It's practically

inevitable:

Sometime

conditions. And keep in mind: Getting a store's card makes sense only if you're a frequent shopper there. Most such cards have hefty interest rates, so if you get one, don't carry a balance.

the terms and



No more holiday money hangovers

If buying gifts for your nearest and dearest costs more than the discretionary portion of vour monthly budget, consider the Chase Freedom card. It gives you 15 months to pay off your balance before you start accruing interest. What's more, there's a cash-back component: Earn 1 percent on every purchase and 5 percent in rotating bonus categories.

Black Friday buddy

Don't you hate it when you nab something at a great priceonly to discover it's being sold for less somewhere else? Good news: Cardholders of all Citi credit cards are protected by Price Rewind, a service that scours retail offers online and refunds the difference if it finds a better deal within 60 days.

Scrooge, take note!

Unlike most credit cards, the Citi Simplicity MasterCard won't hit you with a lot of nasty fees, so you don't get dinged for paying by phone or making a late payment. Also pretty nice: You get a 0 percent introductory annual percentage rate (APR) on purchases and balance transfers for 21 months.

Back to Santa's workshop

Stolen laptop? Busted blender? No worries. Use an American Express card to buy the latest products and you'll get up to one year of coverage added to the manufacturer's warranty, gratis. Purchase Protection also helps guard against theft and accidental damage for up to 90 days from the date of purchase-so your kid's new smartphone is covered even if he drops it in the snow.

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Buying a 5-pound bag of oranges instead of loose fruit can save you up to 40 percent. But that deal won't mean much if your family eats the food at lightning speeds. (Researchers at the University of Illinois found that when pantries were stockpiled with treats, people tended to gobble them twice as quickly.) For real savings, skip the grab-and-go bulk items and buy according to how much your family really needs to eat.



Studies show that handing over hardearned dollars is psychologically harder than plunking down plastic, so you'll spend less if you pay in areenbacks.



Expect to dish out 40 percent more for presliced, packaged produce, be it squash, pineapple or watermelon. A smarter idea: Buy the whole fruit or vegetable and grab a knife for a fast five minutes of slicing, dicing and storing.



E EVERY OTHER WEEK

MOST PEOPLE SHOP ONCE A WEEK, THEN RUN TO THE STORE ALMOST DAILY TO PICK UP ADDITIONAL ITEMS SUCH AS A GALLON OF MILK AND A LOAF OF BREAD. NOT GOOD. STUDIES SHOW THAT IMPULSE BUYS JUMP 23 PERCENT ON UNPLANNED TRIPS. FOR MAXIMUM SAVINGS, AIM FOR TWO MAJOR SHOPPING TRIPS EACH MONTH, NABBING EXTRAS ON THE WEEK BETWEEN.



You can put more than meat and seafood on ice-great news if you're looking to stock up on discounted perishables. Don't hold back on bargain butter, berries, nuts, hummus, cheese and even raw eggs (beat them and freeze in ice cube trays). Tip: Bread freezes best if you put a paper towel inside the package first.



GFNFRIC

You could save as much as 60 percent by buying store brands (not a lot of money is spent on packaging and advertising, so there are fewer costs to pass on to customers). Your best bets: canned vegetables and cereal. And remember, most stores offer a money-back quarantee on their own brands, so hang on to your receipt for extra assurance, in case the generic is not up to par.



An offer that boasts "Buy two, get one half off" might seem like a steal, but know this: Almost every item in the store will be knocked down to 50 percent off at some point, and it's worth waiting for the deeper discount before stocking up.

Sale item out of stock? Ask the store for a rain check, which lets you buy the item—at the sale price—once it's back in stock, even if your coupon is no longer valid. Also worth a shot: See if you can use the coupon you have on a similar item.



JUMBO

Single-serve products such as oatmeal and yogurt are convenient but can cost up to 30 percent more than jumbo-size versions. Opt for big containers—then divvy up portions at home.



Americans toss out 28 percent of the fruits and veggies and 27 percent of the grains they buy, according to the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC). To prevent food from going to waste, take a periodic inventory of your pantry and fridge: Anything nearing its expiration date should be moved front and center. The website supercook.com can help you use what you have by generating recipes based on the ingredients you enter.



LANES

There's a reason impulse buys—candy bars, magazines—are placed near cash registers: Store managers know you're more likely to check them out while standing in line. One way to resist the "last grasp" is to scan your own groceries. Studies show that spur-of-the-moment purchases drop significantly when shoppers do the scanning themselves, because there's less last-minute merchandise to grab at the self-checkout stands. What's more, because self-check lines usually are shorter, you'll have less time to be tempted.



THE MARKUP ON PRECUT MEAT CAN BE AS MUCH AS 300 PERCENT! KEEP COSTS LOWER BY BUYING A LARGE CUT AND HAVING THE BUTCHER TRIM IT INTO PIECES (STRIPS FOR A STIR-FRY, SAY, OR CUBES FOR A STEW).





NUMBERS

Signs with numbers in them (LIMIT: 5 PER PERSON, for example) coax shoppers into spending twice as much as they planned, according to a study in the Journal of Marketing Research. Write the amount you want to buy on your shopping list—and stick to it. And remember: When multiples are advertised for a single price (10 FOR \$10), you usually don't have to buy them all to nab the lower price.



THE TRICK

RELAXING MUSIC Ever wonder why supermarkets seem to favor easy-listening tunes? Turns out, music that has a relaxed tempo—slower than the average heartbeat—encourages shoppers to linger in the store and thus buy more.

YOUR MOVE Plug in your headphones and crank up fast-paced tunes such as Kelly Clarkson's "Heartbeat Song" to move you through the aisles much faster.

THE TRICK

SEDUCTIVE AROMAS There's a reason you often smell fresh-baked goodness the moment you step into the grocery store: The scent can get shoppers' salivary glands going, making it harder to resist temptation.

YOUR MOVE Pop a mint. It satiates hunger, and that blast of freshness helps override other scents.

THE TRICK

FREE SAMPLES! That tray full of cheese might seem harmless, but a Cornell University study found that shoppers who indulge are more likely to make a postsample purchase.

YOUR MOVE Eat before you go. Hungry shoppers are more tempted by food, especially when it's free. To curb your impulse to nibble, enjoy a healthy snack about an hour before you shop.

THE TRICK

CREATIVE LIGHTING The better food looks, the more likely people are to load up. Some stores use bright-white lighting to give fruits and veggies a just-picked appearance, while red-tinted illumination makes prime cuts appear even fresher.

YOUR MOVE Find different lighting. Give that container of blueberries or pound of porterhouse a closer look away from the faux glow.

THE TRICK

EASY ACCESS EDIBLES Open refrigerated cases encourage impulse purchases, because shoppers can grab items more easily.

YOUR MOVE Reconsider. If you're craving a \$10 container of sushi, wheel your cart to another aisle to mull over the purchase. Research shows it takes about 20 minutes for the stimulated sensors in your brain (responsible for impulse control) to calm down —Nicole Frebsee



saveeveryday*



Most of us are too busy unloading our carts to also watch the register, so review your slip carefully before you leave the store to ensure that the sales rang up properly. (Those scanners aren't foolproof!) Some chain stores will give you an item for free if it scans at the wrong price.





SOCIAL MEDIA

On Facebook, like your favorite grocery stores and food brands to get access to special offers and sales they share with their social media fans. On Twitter, follow the stores and brands along with @CouponCraving, @MoneySavingMom and similar accounts.

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websites

How low

Watch a 15-second video (or take a survey) and knock some money off a product—that's the premise behind lbotta. After you buy the item, simply scan the receipt. Reach \$10 in rebates and cash out through PayPal or Venmo.



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stores all your loyalty cards (plus weekly ads, coupons and shopping lists) on your phone. Just scan it at checkout.



BerrvCart offers cash back on goodfor-you foods

(organic, vegan and more). Select a deal, buy it in the store, then take a photo of the receipt. You can get reimbursed through PayPal or receive gift cards.



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sends thousands of coupons and circulars from stores in your area directly to your smartphone. Just look at the offerings and pick the ones you want.

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SUPERCENTERS

TWO FOR ONE

Cook once, eat twice: Stock up on sale items so you can make at least two nights' worth of meals at once. Flank steak at a good price? Make enough for two dinners (a straight-up steak one night, say, and a stir-fry the next).



UNIT PRICE

For the smartest deal, don't just eyeball a product's price—consider the unit price. Check the shelf tag under each item to find the cost per ounce, quart or pound. When you're buying meat, check out the cost per serving instead, because fat and bones figure into the weight.

Sources: Emily Guy Birken, author of Choose Your Retirement; Kimberly Danger, founder of mommysavers.com: Richard J. George, Ph.D., professor emeritus at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia: Phil Lempert. editor of supermarketguru.com; Stephanie Nelson, founder of couponmom.com; Amy Corron Power, managing editor and tasting director of anotherwine blog.com; Paco Underhill, author of What Women Want: The Science of Female Shopping; Andrea Woroch, consumer savings expert

WHERE TO **BUY WHAT**

One-stop shopping is nice, but going to a grocery story to nab every item on your list can be expensive.



MILK

Convenience stores and drugstores often promote big savings on moo juice to encourage shoppers to stop in—then pay full price on other items. Costco, Sam's Club and other warehouse clubs can offer deep discounts as well (if you have fridge space for



multiple gallons).

FRESH PRODUCE

Ethnic markets tend to spend less on advertising, so they're able to offer produce at lower prices. At a farmers market, you might be able to negotiate a deal if you shop at the end of the day and offer to buy larger amounts.



CANNED GOODS

If you're already at a dollar store, peek at the nonperishable aisle. The savings can be hit or miss. but if you watch the unit price, you might net deals from manufacturers trying to clear out inventory.



HEALTH AND BEAUTY PRODUCTS

Target and Walmart regularly trump grocery stores on toiletries, but you can get even better deals if you layer coupons and sales at drugstores.



saveeveryday*

The best time to indulge is late summer to early autumn. That's when last year's bottles go on sale to make room for new vintages. Consider wines from the wellestablished yet often overlooked Old World regions of Spain—in particular, Albariño (a reasonably priced white wine from Rías Baixas) and Tempranillo (a red variety from Rioja).

W WHEELS

PUSHING A HUGE GROCERY CART CAN INFLUENCE YOU TO BUY UP TO 40 PERCENT MORE. INDUSTRY EXPERTS HAVE FOUND, CARRYING A HEAVY **BASKET CAN TRIGGER IMPULSE** BUYS, TOO. TO OPTIMIZE SAVINGS, GRAB A MINI CART. IF YOUR STORE DOESN'T OFFER SMALL CARTS, PUT YOUR COAT IN THE BOTTOM OF A LARGE CART SO THERE'S LESS AVAILABLE SPACE.



'X-TREME' COUPONING

Don't bother with scissors: Websites such as redplum.com and smartsource.com compile the coupons available in your area. Just print them out or load them onto a store loyalty card. Tip: Many chains double the face value of most coupons on certain days of the month; ask your grocer about the store's policy.



If you're crazy about a certain product, send the company a quick note to say so. Some manufacturers will mail you coupons as a thank-you for your fan letter. Also, sign up for free samples from Procter and Gamble (pgeveryday.com) and new products from Kraft (kraftfirsttaste.com).

When it comes to spices, drugstores tend to offer better deals than grocery stores, where brand-name bottles can be marked up as much as 90 percent. But for the best deal. go to a natural-food store with bulk bins: You can get exactly the amount you need and not waste money by buying spices you'd need to toss later because they got stale.







BEFORE YOU BRING IT IN...

A 2013 study from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Illinois found that, on average, women tend to pay more for auto repairs than men, because mechanics assume women don't know much about how their four-wheelers work. But here's the catch: The study also found that when women do seem to be clued in to the inner workings of their cars (for example, mentioning an expected price for a repair), they're a lot less likely to be scammed. How else can you ensure you don't get taken for a ride?

CLICK BEFORE YOU PICK When choosing a repair shop, check that the technicians are certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ase.com).

DO SOME SLEUTHING

Figure out what's wrong beforehand by using a tool such as CarMD (\$120; carmd.com) or Actron (\$178; actron.com). Plug one of the devices into your car's connection port (beneath the dashboard) to get the car's computer codes, then plug it into your computer to see what problems the codes indicate—along with suggestions for a fix and an estimate of what a repair is likely to cost. Or visit carcare.org to get up to speed on typical repairs and questions to ask your mechanic.

ACTUALLY READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL

OK, maybe not every single page, but do skim through it. You can avoid unnecessary maintenance if you know what needs to be done at every service interval.





CHANGE THE AIR FILTER

THIS SMALL PART TRAPS AIRBORNE DEBRIS (DUST, LEAVES, BUGS) BEFORE IT CAN GUM UP YOUR ENGINE.

WHAT YOU NEED **TO KNOW**

The type and size of filter needed for your vehicle (check the car's manual). Note: Some manufacturers install long-lasting filters that are difficult and expensive to replace. It's not the norm, but check before starting.

- Appropriate tools for removing the air filter housing (check the owner's manual)
- Shop vacuum
- Replacement air filter (the best quality you can afford)

- First, be sure the engine is cool. Locate the air filter housing (usually in a plastic case near the top of the engine); remove the top. If the case is held together with clamps, screws or bolts, remove them.
- 2 Use a shop vacuum to clear out any debris

vou discover in the housing.

- 3 Lift the old filter out of the case, vacuum again and insert a new filter, making sure it fits properly in the housing.
- 4 Replace top; reattach clamps or screws.

CHECK TIRE PRESSURE

MAINTAINING PROPER AIR PRESSURE IN YOUR TIRES MEANS A SMOOTHER RIDE—AND YOU USE LESS GAS.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The manufacturer's specifications for tire pressure (you probably can find them on a sticker on the driver's side door iamb or inside the glove compartment)

THE TOOLS

- Air pressure gauge (gas stations have air hose gauges, but they're usually not as accurate)
- Air compressor (your own or one at a gas station)

STEPS

1 Park your car by the air dispenser at the gas station. (Have some quarters handy-it's likely to cost a few dollars.) Be sure your tires are cool: Warm air inside the tires can cause them to expand and might result in an inaccurate reading

- 2 Remove the cap from the valve on the tire and place it somewhere safe.
- O Push the air pressure gauge firmly over the valve until you get a reading. If the tire needs air, first check for obvious wear and tear (filling tires that are worn or punctured can be dangerous). If the tire is in good shape, push the compressor's nozzle onto the valve to add air in short bursts, until you no longer hear air being released. Some compressors allow you to preset the pressure; otherwise, check the pressure with your gauge after each burst of air. Never overinflate vour tires: it can increase your risk of a blowout. If you accidentally add too much air, let some of it out by depressing the valve.
- 4 When you're done, replace the valve cover, tightening it until it's snug.

EVERY 3 MONTHS/3,000 MILES:
• Check car fluids • Measure tire pressure • Change oil (check car

manufacturer specifications). EVERY 6 MONTHS/5,000 MILES:

 Check battery charge
 Inspect wiper blades
 Change synthetic oil (check car manufacturer's specifications). EVERY 9 MONTHS/9,000 MILES: • Check air filter • Examine tires for wear and tear • Check battery charge. EVERY 12 MONTHS/12,000 MILES: • Change air filter (more frequently in dusty climates) • Change windshield wiper blades

REPLACE THE WINDSHIELD WIPERS

PICK UP A NEW PAIR AT A GAS STATION OR AUTO BODY SHOP. (PRO TRICK: EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR WIPER BLADES BY CAREFULLY WIPING THEM DOWN WITH RUBBING ALCOHOL ONCE A MONTH.)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The length of your wipers (check with a tape measure or find the size in the owner's manual)

NO TOOLS NEEDED

Unless removal is problematic, you need only your hands.

STEPS

Carefully raise the wiper arm away from the windshield. to the point where it remains upright. Don't force it, and be careful not to let it drop (it could crack the glass). Examine the area that holds the blade in place and look for the connector that releases the blade. Most likely it will be a tab you push in or

unlatch. Jiggle the blade until it comes off; if you're having trouble, use a screwdriver or pliers to help get it free.

- 2 Remove the old blade and insert a new one, sliding the blade onto the assembly until it clicks into place.
- Gently lower the arm back onto the windshield. Repeat with the other blade, then test the wipers to be sure they've been installed correctly.

Sources: Jody DeVere, CEO, AskPatty.com; Lauren Fix, Car Coach automotive expert (laurenfix.com); Dave Macholz, assistant professor of automotive technology at Suffolk County Community College in New York





HAPPY HAUNTED

Let new gadgets and simple crafts get you in the spirit(s)

STONE-COLD SCARY SOUNDS **

Rest in peace? Says who?! Conjure up a macabre mood by turning your front lawn into a graveyard with this plastic 15-inch Bluetooth-activated headstone, complete with an ominous-looking skull. (Corpse not included.)

Bluetooth tombstone (15" H x 11" W x 4" D), \$25; homedepot.com.

Up the chill factor by playing spooky music during the night via remote. Visit Spotify and stream the ALL You playlist, which includes "The Addams Family Theme," "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," "Ghostbusters," "Theme from Halloween," "I Put a Spell on You," "Monster Mash," "(Don't Fear) The Reaper," "Somebody's Watching Me," "Superstition," "Thriller," "Werewolves of London" and "Witchy Woman."





SWEET HOMES

Trolling the neighborhood for candy just got easier, thanks to this crafty little app. The Halloween Treat Map (free, Android, iOS) from Nextdoor lets you "mark" your house with a tiny candy-corn icon so trick-or-treaters will know you'll be dropping something yummy into their bags this year (your own kids can see where to go for goodies, too). Now if there were only a way to tell who's handing out the full-size bars!



HIGH SPIRITS

Best. Photo bomb. Ever. Freak out family and friends by adding an eerie app-arition to the background of your snaps. Choose from more than 70 images—including scary clowns, disembodied hands, Samara (that ticked-off little girl from The Ring), and, yes, your gardenvariety ghoul too. Cool feature: You can adjust the opacity of your creation.

> **Ghost Effects** (free, iOS)

WE'VE GONE BATTY!

2222

Make an eerie display on your porch. Cut bats out of craft foam. Fold in half, and use a pushpin to make a hole in center of fold.
Thread a needle with monofilament and push needle through hole. Knot filament and hang bat.





BURNING DOWN
THE HOUSE Q.Q.
Get all fired up for
Halloween: Place this
spotlight (or a couple) on
your lawn, let the red and
yellow swirling flames cast
a diabolical glow, and—
Hell-o—you've got the
hottest house on the block!
Fire and Ice spotlight, \$20; lowes.com.

BOO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS!

Booing—leaving a bag of treats on a friend's doorstep—is the latest Halloween craze. If you're a lucky recipient, hang an I'VE BEEN BOOED sign in your window, then pass the goodwill along by booing two other people. (You can find sign templates on Pinterest.)



Four ways to customize a boo bag

DRESS UP PAPER SACKS WITH THESE IDEAS.

- Make stripes out of colored and patterned duct tape. For the handle, fold over the top of the bag and cut a rectangle along fold.
- Obecorate a bag with orange and black circular stickers. Fill the bag with candy, then fold the top over and seal with a sticker.
- 3 Draw the outline of a cat on a bag and fill in the shape with glue. Cut a collar out of orange paper and place it on cat's neck. Sprinkle glitter over glue. Let dry before filling the bag.
- Out the top of the bag into jagged shapes. Write Boo! on the front with a marker. Fill the bag, then tie it closed with black tulle.

RYAN BENYI (BATS, BAGS)



MONSTER MASH-UPS

Transform any selfie into a fearsome picture by downloading one of these smartphone apps.



Zombie Take a turn as a brain-eating zombie, complete with dangling

eyeballs and moving maggots. Zombify, Android (free), iOS (\$3)



JEEPERS CREEPERS

Squeamish types might freak when these creepycrawlies scurry their way. Remote-control brown spider prop, \$15; buycostumes.com. Crawling Halloween monster hand, \$24; grandinroad.com.



TALKING DEAD

This battery-operated mini megaphone changes your voice into something terrifying: the sound of a flesh-eating zombie. Clip it onto a key chain and let the goose bumps begin! Instant zombie voice, 50 Fifty, \$9; calendars.com.



AFRAID OF THE BARK

Plant this gnarly, soundactivated tree in your yard and watch it come to life whenever unsuspecting trick-or-treaters cross its path.

Shaking spooky tree (27½" H x 20" W), \$25; buycostumes.com.



Vampire Become a 3-D animated blood-sucking vampire that grows fangs.

Vampify, Android (free), iOS (\$1)



Werewolf Shape-shift into a ferocious werewolf that sprouts facial hair.

Wolfify (free), Android, iOS



CANDY LAST YEAR Source: National Retail Federation





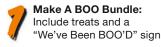
A DOOR THAT ROARS!

2222

Cover door in sections of black and red paper, using double-stick tape to adhere. Cut triangles out of white paper for teeth. For the eyes, cut semicircles out of orange paper, then cut out a semicircle from the top of each eye for the pupils. Tape to door.

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Coffee-Break Fun

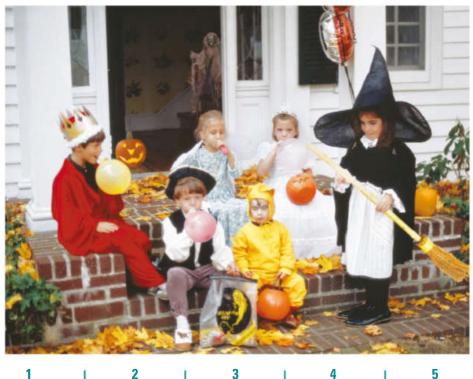
Sip a cup of joe and enjoy these brainteasers



Picture Puzzle

DON'T BE SPOOKED!

This Halloween puzzle is not as scary as it might appear. Spot the 13 tricky differences between the top and bottom images, then give yourself a treat.





WANT MORE **PUZZLES?**

LIFE picture puzzle books are available at bookstores and online retailers. Check out life .com/books/ puzzle and collect the entire series.

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SPOOKTACULAR PARTY TIPS



Get your Snack Scientist hat on and host a Halloween bash that your kids will love! For a night of hauntingly good fun try these creative party solutions and festive recipe concoctions.



1. GET CREATIVE WITH COSTUMES

Tell kids to come decked out in their favorite costumes and offer prizes for scariest, funniest and most original.

2. MIX UP A FRIGHTFUL Fanta® PUNCH

Create a drink that's to die for by mixing 1/2 liter of Fanta® orange soda with a 46 oz. can of pineapple juice and 3/4 of a container of thawed orange sherbet. Add gummy eyeballs for a ghoulish effect.



3. MAKE WICKED **OREO® BATS**

Mix 9 crushed OREO® cookies with 4 ounces of cream cheese to form 12 1" balls. Insert lollipop sticks, dip in melted chocolate and place on wax paper. Freeze for 10 min. For wings. split 12 OREO® cookies in half, cut the tip of one side of each cookie to form flat edges. Dip cookie half in melted chocolate to adhere. Decorate with candy eyes and white icing.

Share your creative concoction photos using #SpookySnackLab





Creative Concoctions Await! Pick up Fanta® and OREO® for your Halloween party!

Check out a special offer for \$1 off Fanta® products, powered by



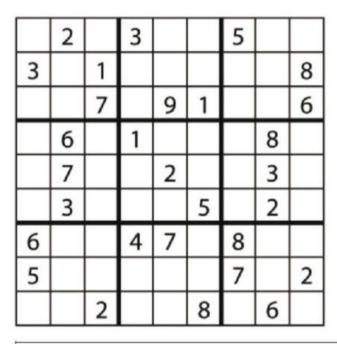
DOLLAR GENERAL

Offer valid 9/21/15 – 10/31/15. Visit dg.com/coupons for digital coupon details.

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Number and word games

Sudoku Complete the grid by placing a number in each box. Your goal is to make each row, column and small nine-box square contain the numbers one through nine exactly once.



Futoshiki Each column and row must contain the numbers one through five. The values of adjacent boxes must obey the given greater-than (>) and less-than (<) signs.

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Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Candid
- 5. Trunk
- 9. To and
- 12. American panther
- 13. Heart
- 14. Young fellow 15. International
- 16. Firmly determined
- 18. Band
- 21. A Room with a_
- 23. Gumbo vegetable 27. Pull
- 30. Picabo Street is one
- 31. Afternoon brew
- 32. Treasure
- 34. Flight
- 35. Mars neighbor
- 37. Low-priced fare
- 39. Ash, for example
- 40. Milan money, formerly
- 41. The Jewel of the Nile snake

- 44. Badge
- 48. Thousand billions
- 52. Loiter
- 53. Droning sound
- 54. Grand
- 55. Send out
- 56. Gary Cooper's affirmative
- 57. Take out, in printing
- 58. Be overly fond of

DOWN

- 1. Major work
- 2. Football kick
- 3. Islamic bigwig
- 4. Lifelong citizen
- 5. Shrill sound
- 6. Little piggy 7. Formerly, formerly
- 8. House pet sound
- 9. Seasonal virus
- 10. Fink
- 11. Shelley work
- 17. Peek
- 19. Baseball throw

- 22. Bicycle part
- 24. Metric mass amt.
- 25. Quantity of paper
- 26. Military
 - organization
- 27. Manuscript mark
- 28. Salty droplet
- 29. Occasional
- 30. Hurricane or
- tornado
- 33. Weird
- 36. Small duck
- 38. Captured
- 42. Eskimo's taxi
- 43. Sherlock's prop
- 45. Celeb's transport
- 46. Prepare to be published
- 47. Dole (out)
- 48. Commandment
- pronoun
- 49. Be regretful 50. Dennis, for
- example 51. Grease



*Solutions on page 102

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(SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)

Hello, superconnector! Your people skills are your secret weapon, and you'll be welcome in any group you care to join. But use your powers wisely. There are only so many hours in a day, and you don't want to waste time with people who don't keep you stimulated. After the 8th, you may shift into hermit mode—even you need the occasional downtime away from the madding crowd.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Don't be surprised if you're the belle of every ball you attend. While you'll still need your alone time, you're definitely feeling the magnetic pull of social gatherings. On the 17th, you could reconnect with someone from your past. Explore the possibilities: Together you could do incredible things!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Let your arrow fly! The sky's the limit when it comes to your career. On the 8th, your ease in group settings will give you a leg up on your rivals. The 17th is one of the best days of the year for you, professionally speaking, so look your best-and tuck some business cards into your wallet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

All that hard work you've been doing is about to pay off big-time, so don't quit five minutes before the miracle happens. Continue to improve your skills and keep a positive attitude. You've been noticed, and great things could happen as soon as Mercury straightens out on the 9th.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 18)

Fancy a getaway? Now's the time to go. Or broaden your horizons virtually by taking a workshop or signing up for a lecture series. Don't take your most intimate interpersonal connections for granted. They need to be nurtured like a garden, and you'll definitely reap what you sow.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20)

Whether you're single or coupled up, your love life soars on the 8th! Don't be shy about expressing your desires—your mate or date is eager to please! If you've been delaying an important conversation, take the plunge on the 27th, when a full moon in Taurus lends major support.

ARIES (March 21–April 20)

Work and health are your main concerns, but bear this in mind: Too much of the former will negatively affect the latter. Slow down and do one thing at a time, and do it well. A new moon in your partnership corner on the 12th signals exciting things to come for the rest of the year.

TAURUS (April 21–May 21) Don't overschedule vourself this month. You'll be more content lying low—at least until the 23rd. when your social life takes precedence over pretty much everything. This is also a creative time, so if there's a memoir or an art project you've been mentally working on, make it real!

GEMINI (May 22–June 21)

Trying to push ahead on a project before expressive Mercury straightens out on the 9th will be an exercise in frustration. But after that, you could strike gold. You may experience a pleasant surprise on the home front on the 17th, so keep your options—and your mind-wide open.

CANCER (June 22–July 22)

When Mercury resumes forward motion on the 9th, all the crazy misunderstandings you've been experiencing with family and friends sort themselves out. You could forgive someone or deepen a bond thanks in large part to your communication skills, which are stellar on the 17th.

LEU (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your charisma and magnetism are at their annual high the first week of the month. What do you want to accomplish in your personal or professional life? Write it down, visualize it happening, then go for it! After the 7th, a job prospect or new income stream you've been coveting could become a reality.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

They say luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity, and the planets align in Virgo on the 17th to shower good fortune on you. But you can't sit back waiting for it to happen. Apply adequate amounts of elbow grease and keep your eyes on the prize.

Tell Us What You Think!



The editors of All You want to know how you feel about this issue. And we'll make it worth vour while...

TAKE OUR QUICK AND FUN SURVEY **BY VISITING:**

allyou.com/octobersurvey

Each survey participant will automatically be entered into a drawing for one of 28 cash prizes.

Grand Prize **\$500** 2 First Prizes \$100 EACH 5 Second Prizes \$50 EACH 20 Third Prizes **\$25** EACH

Thank you for being part of the team that helps shape future issues of



NO PURCHASE OR SURVEY NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE OR SURVEY WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. The ALL You "Issue Feedback Study" October 2015 Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the 50 United States and District of Columbia (U.S.), age 18 or older at time of entry. Void outside the United States, in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. To enter and view complete official rules, visit allyou.com/ octobersurvey or enter by sending a postcard with your name, complete address, e-mail address and telephone number to: The ALL You "Issue Feedback Study" October 2015 Sweepstakes, c/o The U.S. Sweepstakes and Fulfillment Co., 625 Panorama Trail, Suite 2100, Rochester, NY 14625, postmarked by 10/23/15 and received by 10/30/15. Sweepstakes begins at 12:01 a.m. Eastern time (ET) on 9/8/15 and ends at 11:59 p.m. ET on 10/23/15. All federal, state and local regulations apply. Sponsor: TI Media Solutions Inc., 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020.



This month, wants to spruce up your home for fall

READERS WILL WIN a Jennifer Adams queen-size Eternal sheet set and luxurious robe

Surround yourself in comfort with a spa-worthy collection from designer Jennifer Adams. The soft, lightweight microfiber sheets and pillow cases are durable and wrinkle-resistant but cozv enough for autumn nights.

READERS WILL WIN

a Nilsen accent chair

Add a pop of color to a room with this upholstered chair from Sauder in vibrant orange. The cushioned seat and back provide plenty of comfort, and the sleek solid-wood legs lend a sophisticated look.

ENTER AT



READERS WILL WIN a Yankee Candle fall fragrance set

Bring quintessential seasonal aromas into your home with these five candles, each in its own glass tumbler. This collection of scents: Lush Berries, Autumn in the Park, Crisp Morning Air, Vanilla Bourbon and Sugar and Spice.



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

The ALL You Giveaways ("Sweepstakes") are open to legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia, age 21 or older at the time of entry. To enter and view the complete Official Rules, which govern this Sweepstakes, visit allyou.com/ giveaways. Sweepstakes begins at 12:01 a.m. Eastern time (ET) on 9/18/15 and ends at 11:59 p.m. ET on 10/15/15. Void where prohibited by law. Sponsor: TI Media Solutions Inc., 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020

"Coffee-Break Fun," p. 96

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CROSSWORD

PICTURE PUZZLE

No. 1 (A1): Who's that drifting downstairs? A ghost. No. 2 (A4 to B5): The hat is extra-large, No. 3 (A5): More than a Halloween prank: Someone stole the window shutter. No. 4 (B1): The boy's crown is taller. No. 5 (B2 to C2): A jack-o'-lantern has joined the scene. No. 6 (B3 to B4): A true princess wears a tiara. No. 7 (B4 to D5): Our little witch can trick-or-treat faster on her handy broom. No. 8 (B4 to B5): She's letting her hair grow out. No. 9 (D3): Does he know his balloon turned pink? No. 10 (D4): Oh no! Someone's treats basket disappeared. No. 11 (E1 to E2): Several small bricks have merged into one. No. 12 (E2): The pirate will be warmer at sea with longer pants. No. 13 (E4 to E5): Those are some big shoes to fill.



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Shouldn't moms get to play, too?

I'm often a little jealous of my 5-year-old daughter. First of all, she's got beautiful, honey-brown ringlets—people actually stop us on the street to compliment her hair. Then there's her creamy skin, pretty as a ripe pear. She also plays a mean game of Uno, has a wild sense of humor and effortlessly makes up hilarious country and western songs about dinosaurs. Who wouldn't be jealous?

But I'm most envious, by far, of her boundless creativity. Every day, all day long, she imagines, builds, colors, dreams, creates. At 5, she has no concept that it's possible for a person to spend entire days—weeks, years even—without making something, or making something up. For her, there's nothing special about playing so hard that she's transported into another world. It's as familiar as brushing her teeth.

Sometimes I do get a glimpse into the world she inhabits. On rainy or snowy days, my daughter and I like to color together. We listen to our favorite Dolly Parton songs and huddle up with our gigantic basket of crayons and an extra-large coloring book, so we can work on the same picture (we're both lefties, so it takes some arranging). Every mom knows that coloring can be a real sanity saver on a crummy day, but there's also something magical about sitting quietly with your child and ignoring everything else while you work together. No distractions, nowhere else to be, no

butting heads over snack time or screen time. Just reinventing a black-and-white picture as something original, full-color and totally us. When I look over at my daughter's little face, so serious, intent and thoughtful, I think: I always want her to remember this feeling. And then: I miss feeling that way myself.

Drawing and coloring and imagining are all part of what I like to think of as the "job description" of childhood. When I drop off my daughter at school, I tell her in a serious voice, "Play hard! Play like it's your job!" Usually she just giggles and runs off.

Thing is, our little ones have finger paints, crayons, building blocks and time devoted to using them every day. As moms, I think we need a similar outlet. Even if it's just 15 minutes, that's 15 minutes of reading, dancing, baking, building, writing, drawing or dreaming, of exercising the imagination-anything that makes us feel like we're coloring on a rainy afternoon, lost in the work of creating something magical.



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